STATE OF CALIFORNIA

CITIZENS REDISTRICTING COMMISSION (CRC)

In the matter of:

CRC BUSINESS MEETING

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2020

9:30 a.m.

Transcription by:

eScribers, LLC
APPEARANCES

COMMISSIONERS
Isra Ahmad, Chair
Alicia Fernandez, Vice-Chair
Jane Andersen, Commissioner
Trena Turner, Commissioner
Linda Akutagawa, Commissioner
Neal Fornaciari, Commissioner
J. Ray Kennedy, Commissioner
Antonio Le Mons, Commissioner
Sara Sadhwani, Commissioner
Patricia Sinay, Commissioner
Derric Taylor, Commissioner
Pedro Toledo, Commissioner
Angela Vazquez, Commissioner
Russell Yee, Commissioner

STAFF
Raul Villanueva, Interim Administrator
Marian Johnston, Interim CRC Staff Counsel

TECHNICAL CONTRACTORS
Kristian Manoff, AV Technical Director/Comment Moderator
Katy Manoff, Comment Moderator

Also Present

PUBLIC COMMENT
Renee Westa-Lusk
Michelle DiGuilio
Lori Shellenberger
Anne Hunter
Jacqueline Coto
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PROCEDINGS

September 23, 2020
9:30 a.m.

CHAIR AHMAD: Good morning, everyone. Today is
Wednesday, September 23rd, 2020. The time is
approximately 9:38 a.m. Can we have --

MS. JOHNSTON: Could you speak up, please?

CHAIR AHMAD: Can we have a roll call vote? I'm
sorry. Roll call attendance.

MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Ahmad?

COMMISSIONER AHMAD: Here.

MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Akutagawa?

COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Here.

MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Andersen?

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Here.

MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Fernandez?

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Here.

MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Fornaciari?

COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Here.

MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Kennedy?

COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Here.

MS. JOHNSTON: Commi -- yeah!

Commissioner Le Mons?

COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Here.

MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Sadhwani?

COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Here.
MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Sinay?

COMMISSIONER SINAY: Here.

MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Toledo?

COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: Here.

MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Turner?

COMMISSIONER TURNER: Here.

MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Taylor?

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Here.

MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Vazquez?

COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: Here.

MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Yee? Commissioner Yee?

You're muted.

COMMISSIONER YEE: (Unintelligible).

CHAIR AHMAD: Your voice is very chipmunky.

COMMISSIONER YEE: (Unintelligible).

MS. JOHNSTON: The joys of technology.

Everyone's present Commissioner Chair.

CHAIR AHMAD: Thank you.

Do we have any general announcements?

(No audible response.)

Seeing none, can we hear the instructions to call in for public comment?

MR. VILLANUEVA: So before I do those, to the public, we're going to present to you a different system than the ATT. Hopefully, it will be a little bit more
simpler and straightforward for you. The instructions that I'm reading to you are also posted on the website. So in order to maximize transparency and public participation in our process, the Commissioners will be taking public comment during their meeting by phone. There will be opportunities to address the Commissioners regarding the items on the agenda. And there will also be opportunities for the public to submit general comments about items not on the agenda.

Please note that the Commission is not able to comment or discuss items not on the agenda. The Commission will advise the viewing audience when it is time to submit public comment. The Commissioners will then allow time for those who wish to comment, to dial in.

So to call in on your phone, dial the telephone number that is provided on the livestream feed. Next, when prompted, enter the meeting ID number, which is also provided on the livestream feed using your dial pad. When prompted to enter a participant ID, simply press the pound sign.

Once you have dialed in, you will be placed in a queue from which a moderator will begin unmuting callers to submit their comment. You will also hear an automatic, automatic message to press star nine to raise
your hand, indicating that you wish to comment. Again, you would be pressing star nine to raise your hand, which indicates that you wish to comment.

When it is your turn to speak, the moderator will unmute you, and you will hear an automatic message to the effect, "the host would like you to talk and to press star six to speak." You will have 3 minutes to provide your comments. Please make sure to mute your computer or livestream audio to prevent any feedback or distortion during your call. Once you are waiting in the queue, be alert for when it is your turn to speak. And please turn down the livestream volume.

The Commissioners will take comment for every action item on the agenda. And as you listen to the online video stream, the Chair will be calling for public comments. This is the time to call in. The process for making a comment will be the same each time, beginning by dialing the telephone number provided on the livestream feed, and following the steps as I just stated.

Again, these instructions are on the website, if you would like to download them and use them. Thank you.

Chair?

CHAIR AHMAD: Thank you, Raul.

MR. VILLANUEVA: You're welcome.

CHAIR AHMAD: Katie, I see we have some folks in the
queue. Can you let the first person in?

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Yes.

If you wish to make a comment and haven't done so, please press star nine to raise your hand. It's not on yet. It's not letting me in. If you could hold on for just one moment, please.

MS. SHELLENBERGER: Yes. Hello, this is Lori Shellenberger. Can you hear me?

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Yes.

MS. SHELLENBERGER: Okay. It's a little tricky getting -- hello?

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: We had -- so we had multiple people unmute themselves. If -- I did. So one moment. So the last two -- the last four, 2829, if you could state your comment?

MS. WESTA-LUSK: Yes. My name is Renee Westa-Lusk. I live in Ridgecrest, California. I'm located in eastern Kern County. I had two, I guess, questions that are not on the agenda. One is, maybe the commission could address this at a later meeting about the -- first of all, the delay of the census. Will that impact the redistricting's Commission's ability to meet California state deadlines for redistricting, if the census data isn't given to them in time to do the redistricting, according to California state laws? There's a Brennan
Report that was on the last Commission's last meeting of June 6th that reported the consequences of the delayed census taking. So that is a major concern to me.

My second comment is, I hope all the redistricting Commissioners have read over the redistricting 101. It was a PowerPoint that was on that redistricting Commission website that described the basis on which the redistricting is to be done. And I hope they all take into consideration about contiguity and communities of interest, because those are really the most -- or they call it municipal geography, which incorporates communities of interest. And to be fair, the last commission paid huge attention to the municipal geography and communities of interest.

And I believe that's the best way to make this nonpartisan because I think the Commission did a great job in the last redrawing the lines because they kept politics out of it and based it on directives and proper directives in redrawing the lines so they're fair and stay out of political reasons for drawing lines. That's my comment. Thank you.

THE COURT REPORTER: This is the court reporter. Could the speaker please spell your name? And can we be reminded when speakers do speak, just please spell their name when they first log on?
MS. WESTA-LUSK: Okay. It's Renee, R-E-N-E-E. The first name has two Es after the N. And the last name is W-E-S-T-A-, and then there's a hyphen, and then it's Lusk, capital L-U-S-K.

COURT REPORTER: Thank you.

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: And we're going to our next caller.

If you could please spell your name after you state it for the court reporter? You can hit star six to unmute yourself.

MS. DIGUILIO: Hello? Can you hear me?

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Yes. Can you please spell your name --

MS. DIGUILIO: Okay.

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: -- for the court reporter?

MS. DIGUILIO: My name -- good morning. My name is Michelle DiGuilio, M-I-C-H-E-L-L-E D-I-G-U-I-L-I-O. I'm one of the former 14 commissioners from the 2010 Commission, being one of the no party preference members who is now just an average citizen. I'm still in Stockton, been here with my four kids, who are now teenagers, and busy working for the Stockton Fire Department.

It's great to see all the new commissioners.
Congratulations. And while initially reluctant to address the Commission, I realized that some words of wisdom may come in handy as you develop your own approach to redistricting in 2020. I've broken it down to three areas that can be summarized as people, process, and pressure. I'll try to make it fast, but if you -- you may need to indulge me a bit towards the end. The first area is people. Basically, you, the Commissioners, you probably realize that you'll be connected with one another pretty intensely for the next year plus and the following 10 years. And as 14 people with different backgrounds and stories, I cannot emphasize enough the importance of building relationships and camaraderie early amongst your group. I know you have the added challenge of COVID, but because you are all new to one another as well as this process, building your relationships with each other will be fundamental to your success in many ways, because each and every one of you, at some level, will have to work towards consensus and even compromise at some point on some topic guaranteed. And you can't do these things without a foundation of knowing each other. Again, I can't emphasize this enough. Normally I would say this will happen with meals and travel and committees and meal, carpeal (sic), carpools and even more meals. But trying to gather in
any form. But for now, just start somewhere. Get to
know each other. You'll need it later.

Okay. My next set of words of wisdom
around -- revolves around the process. I'll start off
with a suggestion. If you ever have questions about the
intention of the Voters First Act, ask them. Bring in
those that created the proposition. California Common
Cause, League of Women Voters, and others. They can be
extremely helpful.

Now, about the process. The first two lessons are
simple reminders. First, fundamentally, you can't draw
the lines and start mapping until you have the census
data in March, public input, and VRA Legal Assistance.
Securing these things early will help you tremendously.
The second reminder is that the line drawing criteria is,
of course, ranked. This is your guideline for
everything. You will come back to the ranking over and
over again, and you will have to prioritize some things
over others due to the position in the ranks.

The next key to the process is transparency, which
is very important to the legitimacy of the process. If
there is daylight, there is the opportunity for the
public to respond to the process as well as better accept
the outcome. In addition to legitimacy, transparency
allows for checks and balances. Transparency allows for
people to comment on previous issues. When the process is open, people are held accountable.

An example -- a quick example is that a former student brought to my attention Doug Johnson's presentation to you from the Rose Institute, in which Doug had multiple drastic mischaracterizations of the last Commission's work. But that's the beauty of transparency. Someone somewhere will call people out when they are wrong or intentionally misleading to you. That transparency loop will be a great benefit to you in this process.

Finally, my last bit of procedural advice, but maybe one of my most important, is to remember that you are the line drawers. You are not hiring line drawers. You are hiring an organization with technical capacity to help the Commission draw the lines. To this end, I would highly recommend not structuring it so the technical consultants go off and draw the lines. That's way too -- there's way too many applications with each line movement, and all commissioners and the public must see how each line comes into existence for the acceptance of the process. To this end, I would just maybe briefly suggest that you could have a quick look at the line drawing sessions from the last commission, not because it's how it should be done, but because you can get a
flavor of what it's like and how that nuanced line
drawing actually is. It's definitely a process worth a
peek.

And finally, my last section is pressure. It's
quick and can easily be summed up as the good, the bad,
and the extra. The good pressure, that is public
testimony input. Highlights include the fact that you
will have the privilege of hearing from your fellow
Californians. Your appreciation for California will
depth, because you will learn something new about the
People and places of California, even if this has been
your home for decades upon decades. It will be one of
the most challenging things to do. But one of the most
rewarding.

The bad pressure. Some realities. Now, if it
hasn't already been said to you, let me be the first to
say it out loud. There are people that want you to fail,
not aggressively, and not to anyone specifically, but
generally speaking. This includes legislators,
lobbyists, line drawers, influencers, and not just from
California, but from other states. They want you, the
commission, to be unsuccessful in redistricting, because
one, if no net maps are adopted, then the responsibility
will go to the judges.

And two, more insidiously, if you fail, it will
prove their point that, quote, regular citizens don't have the skill or ability to redistrict and that power should be back in the hands of legislators; or in the case of other states, it will be used as proof that independent commissions won't work in their state. Don't underestimate the powers around you that aren't always in your corner; another reason you will need to trust each other. You 14 are the most invested in this success -- in this being successful, and you'll need to lean each -- on each other heavily.

Lastly, the extra pressure. As a bonus, the Commission also carries the extra weight on its shoulders that you have each the embodiment of Californians placing their trust in their fellow citizens. You will also be an example of what has been lost somewhere in our political culture; collaboration, compromise, consensus. Working together, even when you don't agree, especially when you don't agree, ultimately, your success means fair representation. Something extra, but something very important.

So that brings me to the end of my very long words of wisdom for your consideration. If it helps inform your discussions, great. If not, I've had my say, like so many other Californians will do. Either way, I wish each and every one of you the best of luck. Thanks.
PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: The next caller, if you could press star six.

MS. SHELLENBERGER: Good morning. Can you hear me?

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Yes. Can you please state, and spell your name for the Court reporter?

MS. SHELLENBERGER: Yes. Good morning. This is Lori, L-O-R-I, Shellengerger, S-H-E-L-L-E-N-B-E-R-G-E-R. I'm the redistricting consultant for Common Cause, and I want to say good morning to everyone. And I'm actually calling in just with a -- a few words about public participation and facilitating participation, and really want to say, first of all, I appreciate the demonstrated commitment that the Commission has toward being as inclusive as possible and making sure the public has the ability to participate.

And with that in mind, I had three things that I wanted to flag for you. The first is notice regarding your meetings and the agenda. There is a way to sign up on the website for notices, but we aren't currently getting those. And so we previously received emails from the auditor's office about the selection process. We don't get those emails anymore, and there aren't any new emails being generated from the list that I'm assuming is being amassed, but perhaps just not operationalized yet.

So I just wanted to flag that, because that's an
important way for folks to understand when meetings will be happening and to -- and when the agendas have been posted. And I want to preface this with recognizing you're still getting up and running. And I know some of this is just ramping up and getting staffed, but just wanted you to know that folks are currently getting those emails.

Second is regarding your agenda. And we raised this during your last meeting, but to the extent that you can, at the beginning of each meeting and at the end of each day, let the public know what items you will be covering. And for any items that are time certain, letting them know so that folks can plan around that.

And then the third is regarding the dialing in which actually this system seems to be a little bit easier, in terms of folks getting into the queue. But I just want to make sure that one of the things I know you were working in that waiting period while people had the opportunity to dial in. And I just want to make sure that you realize it can be a little confusing and cumbersome. This now includes a passcode that people have to enter. So just being patient and allowing -- and I would say up to five minutes for people to figure out how to dial in and not include that instruction period because some people are listening to that to understand
how to do it. Even to the extent you -- maybe you want
to take a short break while people are getting into the
queue. But to consider that it is -- there is a lag
time, and it can take a few minutes for people to figure
out how to get in that queue. And with that, I thank
you, and good luck with your meeting over the next few
days.

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: That is everybody in the
queue at this time.

CHAIR AHMAD: Thank you.

So moving on to the next agenda item, Commissioner
Updates. So items of interest to the Commission. For
this item, we can just popcorn. So any of my colleagues
have anything that you would like to share that would be
of interest to the rest of the Commission? Please raise
your hand, and we can start that conversation.

Yes, Commissioners Sinay?

COMMISSIONER SINAY: I don't know what the intent
is, if it's just our personal life or if it's actually
things that are on the agenda for this. So if you could
clarify that a little bit more.

CHAIR AHMAD: I believe this item was in response to
just general updates that would be of interest to the
whole Commission, whether you define that as personal, I
think, it is up to you. But I would like to keep it
somewhat consistent with the Commission work.

And yes, Commissioner Fernandez, and then back to Sinay.

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: I think -- I remember from the last time, the way I had proposed it would be, you know, we talked about making sure we all know what's going -- what we're doing, just to make sure we're transparent. So I think part of it also had to do, like, if you speak at any event or you went somewhere or you read something, just to kind of keep us all up to date in terms of the activities that we're doing that are related to this redistricting process, just glad that we're all transparent.

COMMISSIONER SINAY: So on that note, that's what I thought, but I wanted to make sure. I did notice that on the agenda, the Public Education Outreach and Engagement Committee -- Public -- Advisory Committee or what -- subcommittee that Vasquez and I are on does not show up in today's agenda, nor the October 5th agenda. And I was also concerned that we created an October 5th agenda without the input from the Commission. I thought that was part of the work that we would do at the end of each one for the next one. So I did want to put that out at the very beginning.

As part of the outreach subcommittee, I checked
with -- checked in with counsel and was told, yes, you
and Vasquez together can talk to some of the groups out
there and get some ideas. I will tell you that sometimes
I wear multiple hats, so I may be on a call with one hat
and other information comes up. So I am on a share --
information share, so I apologize if you get too many
emails from me. Just delete them if they're not of
interest. But I do believe in sharing what I can.

And I'm looking to -- one of the emails that I
just -- one of the webinars I went to was on the Census
Legacy. It was a funders-only webinar, but I do have the
access to it. And that had a lot of interesting
conversations around the census blocks and how to
con -- to build them, especially in the state of
California for other things. And redistricting did come
up in that conversation, so that might be of interest. I
did speak with the former Commissioner, oh, I'm
forgetting Connie's last name. I apologize.

MS. JOHNSTON: Ms. Malloy.

COMMISSIONER SINAY: Thank you. Malloy. She used
to work with the Irvine Foundation. And I also spoke
with Amy Dominguez Arms, who also -- she was the
consultant for the funding for the 2010, as well as the
funding now for the 2020. And she, I think, would be a
great speaker at our next meeting, just because she
worked the landscape both times, and she can tell us how much funding is out there for outreach, what worked, what didn't. And my main question for folks was what worked, what didn't last time, as well as if they had any best practices out there around how to engage people in the time of COVID.

And I also spoke to -- yesterday Commissioner Vazquez, and I spoke to Ben Williams from the National Committee of State Legislature. No, the C. I got this wrong. But anyway, again, the same type of conversation they were sharing, that there's a lot of commissions out there that probably the commissioners from different commissions would love to just sit around and talk about this in different states because it's such a big question. But I am putting together a kind of a literature review, as well as I will have a report when we're on the agenda. Thank you.

CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Fernandez.

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yeah. I just wanted to address a couple of the issues or concerns that Commissioner Sinay brought up. First of all, yes, the subcommittee for outreach wasn't there, and I did bring that up. But unfortunately, what happens is the agenda has to be posted two weeks prior to the meeting, and it had already been posted. And I realized that they had
left the Outreach Subcommittee that you and
Commissioner Vazquez are on. So it should be corrected
for future meetings. And in terms of the agenda already
being out for the next meeting, again, it has to be
posted 14 days prior. And that was as of yesterday,
which is prior to our meeting today. So it's -- it's
kind of if we're going to have almost weekly meetings,
it's going to be very difficult to try to have the full
Commission contribute to that, other than if, you know,
we do some other format. So I think it's good, once we
get to agenda item number 11 to maybe really talk about
that, like, having a meeting every week. That means
we're posting agendas every week. So I'm sure there's a
way that we'll be able to do it. But I think as we're
learning right now, we're trying to figure it out, and
it's not intentional. So we just kind of went with what
we had discussed last time, in terms of what we wanted to
be on agendas for -- be on future agendas. It's kind of
how we posted it for the next one.

CHAIR AHMAD: Just to add to that with the whole
staggered agenda posting. So as of today, myself and
Commissioner Fernandez are leading, but
we -- Commissioner Fernandez was only Vice Chair starting
today, but the agenda was posted yesterday for the
meeting that she will be chairing next time. So there's
a little passing the baton trust game that we have to
play with each other, that we would be chairing a meeting
that we might not necessarily have put the agenda
together for. Do we have any other commissioners'
thoughts on this item before we move on?

Commissioner Sadhwani?

COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: I -- for future, I feel
like, well, maybe we want to go back and revisit. I know
we adopted last time our understanding of how long the
chairs would hold their position. Please correct me if
I'm wrong, but I think we said a minimum of three
meetings or something like that, or I forget the wording
that we had. But perhaps we want to -- we can talk about
it later, but perhaps we want to think about having
commissioners -- if we're doing these two days every week
moving forward, perhaps a commissioner takes two weeks.
So there's four days there, and then there's a little bit
more continuity across. Just one suggestions.

In terms of updates, for full transparency, I teach
a class in California politics, so we were talking about
redistricting. We have a guest speaker coming in this
week, who's been the long-time redistricting scholar at
Stanford (unintelligible).

CHAIR AHMAD: Any last-minute thoughts on this
agenda item before we move on? And there's plenty of
room at the end also to share as well.

Commissioner Andersen and Sinay?

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Just a quick on the

subcommittee. It actually says, "Subcommittee Updates".

So I don't quite understand why we can't put all the

subcommittees in there. Just because one -- a particular

one isn't listed, I don't see -- we certainly -- what

we're putting together we're, you know, that -- it's

certainly under the topic. And I think that's certainly

within the purview, which is when we originally were

talking about these, understanding that the 14-day

requirement, we are putting topics together.

And to say, well, since we didn't specifically say

that particular one, I -- I think that's, you know,

getting sort of too nitty pick, like, it's too specific.

And I don't think we need to limit ourselves quite that

much. I mean, I -- I'd like Raul to please clarify. But

I think we're really being, you know, over -- it should

just be updated, you know, when the -- and re -- when we

repost.

You know, it, like, that's -- because I think most

people don't actually print out the agenda until the

meeting before. And it's not like we're adding a new

topic. It's just being a little bit more specific. And
ca -- called in and said, you know, at the day -- at the beginning of each day, if you could tell us what's happening when, that certainly says now, notice that there is a highlight. It's still under the same topic. We're just being a bit more specific. I don't think -- I think that's certainly within the intent of the Bagley-Keane Act, keeping things open, so.

CHAIR SINAY: I'm not sure that's accurate. What I have heard often is put as much as you can in the agenda so you're as clear as you can. And so it would be listing all the subcommittees so that the community knows what we're going to talk about. So we do need to be careful about that.

Regarding creating the agenda, I'm not sure why Fernandez could not work. That was kind of why we had the chair and the vice chair. You can have up to two people working on things, so the vice chair should be pulled in when creating the next agenda. And I would recommend not putting the let's talk about the next agenda last because I tried to talk about the last -- the agenda.

Last time I worked really hard on collecting what everybody was saying through all eight days or seven days of meetings and really felt like I was cut short. And -- and no one asked me for my notes. I had -- I worked
really hard on that, and nobody came back asking for it. So I do recommend that we move it earlier, and we actually take it seriously about let's look at all of October.

And we also, I know Commissioner Sadhwani and I and others, we really need our dates planned out through December. It's not working for me to have just October. So because people are in such a hurry to finish the meeting, can I please ask us to move that item closer to the beginning?

I also would like this not to feel rushed about selecting staff and all that and to talk about that during that. But I'm really feeling at times that people are rushing us when we don't need to be rushed.

CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Akutagawa?

COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: If I can just make a suggestion about the Committee Updates. Given that the likelihood, at least for the next few meetings, is that the committees will have updates. Can we just have them as a standing item on the agenda, at least for right now? And if for whatever reason, there isn't really a substantive update that the Committee wants to report on, they can always say, you know, we don't have anything to report at this time. And then that way then, you know, we don't have to be concerned about, oh, this wasn't on
the agenda. That -- that's just one thought about just making sure that then people know that there will be an expectation of a conversation. And if there isn't, there isn't.

CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Fernandez?

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: And -- and that's -- that is what we talked about. And in terms of me developing the agenda for part of the next meeting alone, I did not. It was actually started with Commissioner Mod, and then I was brought in towards the end of it, which was fine. So I wasn't in a bubble. And so it was very rushed, and I really did not like that feeling. And I think not -- I don't think any of us like that rushed feeling. But in terms of the subcommittee, that was something we talked about that we would definitely, one, want to include all of them. I even have it on here. I have my outreach English for there and that it would be ongoing and an ongoing agenda item until at some point it might not be needed. Because once we fill certain positions, you know, that subcommittee will no longer be needed. Right. But yeah, I will definitely keep it on there. And you're right, if there's nothing to report, there's nothing to report.

And I do agree with the others where I would like to have a schedule out to December. But I guess we can talk
about that later when we talk about 11, unless we move
that up, which would be a great idea. And I would also
like to say, as Commissioners Sinay, that I did feel
rushed last time. I felt like every time we were cut off
because we're -- we're going to be -- meet at -- be at
the hour and a half mark. Okay. So we go -- we take a
break, and we come back. That's what we signed up for.
I'd rather feel comfortable that everybody got to say
what they needed to say. And -- and I feel comfortable
coming back, that I -- I feel comfortable knowing what
we're going to do for the next meeting, then okay, it's
one and a half hour, and we're done. So, yeah, I don't
mind going beyond -- taking a break and coming back.

CHAIR AHMAD: Any other commissioner updates? Yes,
Commissioner Akutagawa?

COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: I have a question, and it's
just more about process. But to Commissioner Fernandez's
point about going beyond, you know, I'm fine with that.
I think I have a question in terms of -- and maybe this
is more directed to Raul and Marian. Our scheduled time
is to end at 4:30. Is there a -- is there a limitation
or a restriction that we have to be conscious of if we go
beyond, let's say, 4:30, 4:45, and then go to 5:00 or
even 5:30?

MR. VILLANUEVA: So you have contractors in place
providing services. And so really the fallout, if you even want to call it that, is it would -- is just be additional costs. It's always good to have folks advised you could go over, but most of your service providers have been very accommodating. So I don't -- I don't think that's as much of an issue. Did that -- did I respond to your question, Commissioner Akutagawa? It's costs. That's -- that's the -- and it's not a limiter.

COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Okay.

MR. VILLANUEVA: That's the impact.

COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Okay. All right. All right. Thank you. That was helpful. I just -- I think I just want to be able to make sure that we're understand that we're not going to be running up against, like, we have to finish by a certain time regardless of where we are if we're going to go further. I think -- I guess the question I would have is, is given that we've run over all of our meetings, is stating that 4:30 as an end time, is that realistic? Because I am -- I -- I'm scheduling meetings around it, so -- and I'm sure others may be doing so. And I'm perfectly fine. Just tell me what timeline I need to be on, and I will be on. I just want to be able to also balance that with also understanding, you know, are we going to run up against other personnel time costs, restrictions, labor laws, things like that.
But I'll totally honor the idea that I think the conversations that we're having, especially because we're, you know, because of the -- we have to give so much notice. We can't just tap on let's meet tomorrow because we didn't finish this conversation. You know, so, you know, I just want to be conscious about how do we balance all of those things and -- and still be able to ensure that we have that kind of robust conversation that we've been having and honoring everybody's, you know, ideas and thoughts too.

CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Turner?

COMMISSIONER TURNER: Yes.

Commissioner Le Mons, I'm aware you were ahead of me. Do you want to go?

(No audible response.)

COMMISSIONER TURNER: Okay. The thing I think I wanted to say, I appreciate the comments from everyone ready for a new week and all. I think what will be beneficial is as we get an opportunity to learn each other's kind of personality and work style and what have you because, for me, a lot of it has to do with discipline as well. Discipline and comment, participation, et cetera. And I think there are a lot of repeated thoughts throughout our day that sometimes it feels like each person feels that -- I can recall a
conversation or a comment that -- I believe was
Commissioner Fornaciari said, you know, I wish I had
something different or additive to say. I'll probably
just listen. And that's kind of a little bit my
personality as well. But it seems that throughout our
day and perhaps if we can be more mindful of this, not to
necessarily rush people in your thought process. I
understand people process and think through things
differently. But it does appear that sometimes there are
times throughout our day that could perhaps have been a
little bit more disciplined in how we approach it. That
does push us into the end of the day. And we do have
contractors working, and we do not have the luxury of
just continuing to push things out to the next day.

So as chair, it gets to be difficult. You're
watching time. You're watching the calendar. You know
what's on. You want everyone to talk and -- and then
sometimes it seems like, okay, that was good, because it
came from a different person, but it really was the same
thing that was said before. And so I just think that as
we learn personality types, styles and learn to value
everyone's input, that's great. And I'm hoping and
hopeful for the magnitude of what we need to learn and
get accomplished. But we're also being a little bit
aware and disciplined of the comments as well.
CHAIR AHMAD: Any additional comments at this time?

MS. JOHNSTON: Just a suggestion on the agenda. If something comes up that was not mentioned in the meeting, it is perfectly appropriate for a commissioner to send an email to the chair and vice chair suggesting items for the -- to be included on the agenda. And the chair and vice chair can -- can do that, even if it did not come up during a full meeting.

CHAIR AHMAD: Yes, Commissioner Fernandez?

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Actually, I'm not sure if this is part of this agenda item or later, but Marian and Raul, I mean, can't -- once you post the agenda and then if you notice that maybe there's issues or things that are missing or it changes or you want to move things around, can you repost an agenda? Or once you post it, you can't make any changes in that two-week block before the meeting?

MS. JOHNSTON: You cannot -- you cannot add items to the agenda. You could have a discussion, if not an action item, on your general -- in your general announcements, if you wanted to have a discussion of something, but particularly anything that's going to be an action item must be on the agenda. That cannot be changed after the 14-day notice. It can certainly be moved around. There's nothing wrong with adjusting
the -- when each item comes up.

MR. VILLANUEVA: Marian, excuse me. So for my clarification, you can't make an -- a revision or an addition? An addition meaning, like, clarification. So here --

MS. JOHNSTON: You can do a clarification.

MR. VILLANUEVA: So well --

MS. JOHNSTON: You could not do an addition.

MR. VILLANUEVA: Let me give an example. So there's presenters that haven't been obtained yet for one of the items on October 5th, and so there's a placeholder there for that to add them and to post that. So that would be permissible, yes?

MS. JOHNSTON: The topic and that there will be a presentation is notice that they said the name of the presenter does not need to be included in the initial 14-day notice.

MR. VILLANUEVA: Thank you for the clarification.

CHAIR AHMAD: Yes? Commissioner Vasquez?

COMMISSIONER VASQUEZ: So to that end, we can add. If we had items we wanted to discuss but not take action on, could we then not add that? So for example, the Outreach Committee, because there's no action. There's no action. That does (unintelligible).

MS. JOHNSTON: I agree with Commissioner Andersen
that you can have a report from the -- all subcommittees under that general agenda item. And as Commissioner Fernandez said, in the future, we'll make sure that it's listed as a standard item on every agenda.

COMMISSIONER VASQUEZ: Right. And so but then, likewise, if there are discussion pieces we thought had been added, we're not -- we get to the meeting and we realize, oh, we wanted to finish this conversation, or we wanted to have this discussion, et cetera, that's approp -- we can still have that discussion as long as we --

MS. JOHNSTON: Not a discussion. You could have an announcement under the general announcements of items that you wanted to bring up to the general information of the Commission.

COMMISSIONER VASQUEZ: Okay. All right. Thanks.

CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Kennedy. I saw the yellow box circle your square. Do you have anything to share at this time? Any thoughts you would like to share?

COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: I'm here and still struggling with technology. I did listen in to the first meeting, or at least part of the first meeting of the Michigan Redistricting Commission last week. That was an interesting experience, learning how there are
similarities and differences between how they're structured and how we're structured and so forth. But for those who -- who didn't, I would -- I would encourage you to take the opportunity whenever their next scheduled meeting is, to listen in and get a -- get a sense of how they're dealing with things.

    CHAIR AHMAD: Any additional comments at this time related to item number four?

    Yes, Commissioner Taylor?

    COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Yeah. Not to be repetitive or not judicious with my statements. To add on to what Commissioner Kennedy stated, the Michigan Independent Redistricting meetings are available on YouTube, the entirety of both their first two meetings.

    CHAIR AHMAD: All right. So in the spirit of sharing how our personalities are or working styles, I'm very much so a go-down-the-list kind of person. And my hope is that as we go through the agenda items, we have a substantial amount of time for item 11, in which we can discuss what we want in our future meetings or any suggestions or recommendations on structure, et cetera.

    So if it's okay with folks, I'd like to move on to number five, which is the update on the 2020 census. So the report on the progress of California Census. So there is and there is a publicly-available website,
That reports self-response rates. As of this morning, the national self-response rate was 66.2 percent, and the California self-response rate was 68.6 percent. The website also includes a map of the different counties, congressional districts, cities, and then also by census tract as well. And in 2010, California's self-response rate was 68.2 percent.

Currently, the highest reporting count -- or the highest self-response rate by county is sitting at 77.8 percent, and the lowest self-response rate by county is sitting at 21.7 percent within the state of California. If you are curious, I highly encourage you all to go check out that publicly-available website. Again, that's 2020census.gov. I will hand it over to Marian to go over the various litigations related to the census.

MS. JOHNSTON: Thank you. And I think I'm going to review a little bit, since some members of the public may not have been aware of the -- all the developments happening with the census. Early this spring, the federal census did announce that they were going to delay for some four months. In response to that, there was litigation in California, which actually gave the Commission an extra four months also to prepare the maps if the census were delayed for that amount of time. So you are relieved from those statutory deadlines, if the
census does come to the state late?

Subsequently, the Census Bureau announced that it was -- instead of delaying, it was moving up the process of collecting the data and was going to end it early. Not surprisingly, there's been litigation over that as well. There are two lawsuits currently pending; one in California, one in New York that deal with the proposed speed up. One had a hearing on Monday. The other had a hearing on Tuesday. I've not heard of a result in either one of those cases. There was a news report saying the judge seemed inclined to grant an order to the census that it continue until through October, as the federal statute indeed requires. And as soon as we get a ruling on that, I will pass it along to the commissioners.

Interestingly, in the case in California, there was a hearing a couple of days ago where the judge really criticized the Census Bureau for not producing documents that it was supposed to produce, and indicated that in the meantime, it would extend the temporary restraining order until it could have a full hearing with all the necessary documents. That hearing did happen yesterday. And as I said, the press reports indicated the judge seem inclined to issue the preliminary injunction compelling the census to continue, but I don't know the exact result of that.
There's also been legislation proposed. We talked about two of those bills last time, and perhaps Commissioner Sadhwani and Toledo would like to give a report on the letters they sent out concerning those two bills. There's also a new two bills that are bipartisan efforts in the Senate and the House of Representatives.

One final note, as I -- we talked about last time, the litigation over whether or not the census would ask for undocumented status.

There was an injunction issued requiring the Census Bureau not to ask that question. The Administration has filed a petition with the Supreme Court to seek a review of that order and has asked for a speedy resolution. The Court has not ruled on that request yet. The Court has had other things on its mind, obviously, in the last few days. But as soon as there's any the decision on whether there's going to be hearing in the Supreme Court on the undocumented immigrants issue, I will pass that along.

Commissioner Sadhwani and Toledo, do you want to report on your letters?

COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Perhaps Raul can report. I only learned this morning that it was sent out. I haven't seen it.

MR. VILLANUEVA: So the letters were sent out, a hard copy. I haven't had a chance to post them yet. But
I don't know what else there is to really to report on that.

MS. JOHNSTON: Unless there are any questions.

(No audible response.)

CHAIR AHMAD: No question? All right. I'm sure we will hear more about this later on this week if there are developments. So moving on to item six.

Back to you, Marian, about counsel updates.

MS. JOHNSTON: I don't really have anything further in addition to what I've just said.

CHAIR AHMAD: All right.

So at this time, our 90-minute break is actually at 11:20. I'm sorry, 11:05. And we will be going into closed session now to address item seven on the agenda. Do you all think it's okay for us to take our break now so that when we return, we are not interrupted for another hour and a half?

MS. JOHNSTON: That's fine.

CHAIR AHMAD: Yes. Commissioner Sinay?

COMMISSIONER SINAY: Do we -- do we want any public comments be -- on item seven now, before we go into the -- or -- I know it's awkward because we're going into private, but if people have thoughts on questions and stuff, do we want to hear about it now or later?

MS. JOHNSTON: It's up to you. You can hear -- have
public comment now if you wish.

CHAIR AHMAD: Any thoughts on that, Commissioners?

Yes? Commissioner Turner and then Andersen.

COMMISSIONER TURNER: I think my only thought was I was actually wondering if we needed public comment because of the other agenda items we went through.

Typically, I thought we would -- were to have public comment after each agenda item.

MS. JOHNSTON: For any action item, it's required. For other information items, you certainly may.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Just for the record, my question was exactly the same as Commissioner Turner.

CHAIR AHMAD: Yes, Commissioner Sinay?

COMMISSIONER SINAY: If there's no one saying no, then I would recommend -- I would ask or whatever for us to do public comments now so that the public feels like they had their say.

CHAIR AHMAD: Sure.

Raul, can -- or -- yeah, Raul, can we hear the instructions to call in?

MR. VILLANUEVA: Certainly.

So the Commission will advise the viewing audience when it is time to submit public comment. The Commissioners will now allow time for those who wish to comment to dial in. To call in on your phone, dial the
telephone number provided on the livestream feed. When
prompted, enter the meeting ID number, which is also
provided on the livestream feed, using your dial pad.
When prompted to enter a participant ID, simply press the
pound sign.

Once you've dialed in, you'll be placed in a queue
from which a moderator will begin unmuting callers to
submit their comment. You will also hear an automatic
message to press star nine to raise your hand, indicating
that you wish to comment.

When it's your turn to speak. The moderator will
unmute you, and you will hear an automatic message, "The
host would like you to talk and to press star six to
speak." You will have three minutes to provide your
comments. Please make sure to mute your computer or
livestream audio to prevent any feedback or distortion
during your call. And once you are waiting in the queue,
be alert for when it is your turn to speak. And please
remember to turn down the livestream volume.

The Commissioners will take comment for every action
item on the agenda. As you listen to the online video
stream, the chair will call for public comments as they
are now. The process for making comment will be the same
each time. Begin by dialing the telephone number
provided on the livestream feed, and follow the steps as
they've been described. These instructions are also on
the website. Thank you.

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Chair, are you ready for
public comment?

CHAIR AHMAD: Yes, we are.

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Please state and spell
your fir -- for your name for the court reporter.

I'm -- I'm just calling to reiterate, once again, if you
could share, give us a little bit of a sense of
what -- of where you're going for the rest of the day. I
know you're going into the closed session. If that means
you'll be conducting interviews for the rest of the day,
will you be -- do you have a sense of when you'll be
coming back online? It would be very helpful for folks
who are watching and engaged in and following this.
Because many of those folks are, you know, busy, and many
of them working on the census and improving the count.
So to the extent you can let us know what the schedule
for today, tomorrow, and Friday before you take your
break today, that would be greatly appreciated. Thank
you very much.

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Please state your name.
Spell your name for the court reporter.

MS. HUNTER: Hi. My name is Anne Hunter, A-N-N-E H-U-N-T-E-R. And I have the same comment as Lori Shellenberger. How -- do you have any sense of how long you will be in closed session or do I need to and other people need to check back incessantly to see where you are? So just a very general timeframe would be super, super helpful. Thank you very much.

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you.

If you can press star six. Please state and spell your name for the Court reporter.

MS. CUESTA: Yes, this is Renee Westa-Lusk, R-E-N-E-E is the first name. Last name is W-E-S, like in Sam, T, like in To, A, like an apple, hyphen, Lusk, capital, L-U, like in umbrella, S, like in Sam, K, like in kitten. I just wanted to ask the question of the council, the litigation in California that you said relieved the deadlines if the census data is not distributed in time to meet the original California laws deadline on redistricting, did that happen in the state legislature? Like, did something pass there to allow that?

MS. JOHNSTON: To allow the extra time?

MS. WESTA-LUSK: Yes.

MS. JOHNSTON: No, it was a decision by the California Supreme Court. The legislature brought the
litigation against the Secretary of State, and the Court asked for a response from the 2010 Commission. And after receiving all the information, the California Supreme Court issued the order giving the Commission more time.

MS. WESTA-LUSK: Okay. Thank you.

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: If you will please state and spell your name for the court reporter.

MS. COTO: Hi. Good morning. My name is Jacqueline Coto, J-A-C-Q-U-E-L-I-N-E, last name is spelled, C-O-T-O. I am calling on behalf of NALEO Educational Fund. Good morning, everybody. I wanted to briefly share that we have a collaborative work group joining forces together to offer a letter of recommendation to the Commission on best practices related to community engagement and outreach. And we would love to partner with you and be happy to make presentations on different recommendations set forth on the letter that will be submitted to you.

So the workgroup includes organizations with expertise on community engagement and other civic engagement efforts that will be including information on census and engaging underrepresented -- represented communities. And some of the organizations were very active during the last redistricting in 2011. So I wanted to just comment, make a comment on that so that it won't take you off guard. We are really looking to
partner with you and move forward with being a really
great resource. Thank you so much.

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: And that's everyone in
the queue at this time.

CHAIR AHMAD: Thanks, Katie.

We'll just stand up for one more minute in case
other folks want to call in.

MS. JOHNSTON: Madam Chair, I -- it's hard to
predict how long item six is going to take, but I think
it would probably be safe to say they would -- the
Commission would not be coming back into open session
today, if you and Commissioner Fernandez agree with that.

CHAIR AHMAD: Yes, Commissioner Fernandez?

VICE CHAIR FERNANDEZ: I think when we initially
talked about, I think Commissioner Kennedy and myself, we
talked about what we're going to go into closed session.
We didn't anticipate it -- we anticipated going into
closed session in the afternoon and hoping that in the
afternoon we could, you know, get ready for tomorrow.
And so what I'm wondering is, do we want to maybe move,
like, either agenda item nine up now before we go to
closed session, or do we just go to closed session and
just decide when we're done, we're done and then we go
in? Because, yes, I agree with Marian. I don't know how
long it's going to take. And I would hate if we're going
to -- if we have the possibility of coming back after
closed session, maybe we move that item now so that
whoever's listening can listen now instead of trying to
wait until we're done with agenda item number 7. Does
that make sense? Am I just -- okay.

Anyway, so that's just my recommendation. We could
maybe move agenda item 9 up. I think agenda item 11
might take a little bit longer, because that, I think,
all of us really wanted to take a lot of time on. But
I'm thinking that's one that we could potentially move
now. And then agenda item 10, I know that Raul had said
something to the subcommittee. We're going to plan to
discuss that on Friday. So anyway, that's just my
suggestion -- or two options, I guess.

CHAIR AHMAD: Any other thoughts? Commissioner
Sadhwani?

COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: I think Commissioner Sinay
had her hand up first.

CHAIR AHMAD: Go ahead, Commissioner Sinay.

COMMISSIONER SINAY: I just had a quick question,
and it might have been sent to us; but when are the folks
coming to talk about the redistricting software?

MS. JOHNSTON: Friday.

MR. VILLANUEVA: Friday morning.

COMMISSIONER SINAY: About what time?
MR. VILLANUEVA: Friday morning.

MS. JOHNSTON: Friday morning.

COMMISSIONER SINAY: Okay. Just if you can have that on their agenda.

CHAIR AHMAD: Thank you. Go ahead, Commissioner Sadhwani.

COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Thank you. I had the same question as their -- I mean, it sounds like what people are asking in public comments is there a specific time for this -- like, what time is the person who's going to give this --

MS. JOHNSTON: After public comment, I would -- is it 10 o'clock that they're scheduled for?

MR. VILLANUEVA: So if you open with public comment Friday morning, it will be right after that.

COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Okay.

MR. VILLANUEVA: I do --

COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: It'll be approximately 10 o'clock for, I think, folks listening in who wanted more of that information. And then I support before we -- Commissioner Fernandez's recommendation to move something up, whether it's item number 9 or item number 11 which has been mentioned as well. Kind of thinking a little bit more about future agenda items; it doesn't really matter to me which one it is. But if we have that
additional time; if we think that that afternoon closed
session is -- we only need the afternoon, then I would
say let's get that moving now. So I support that.

CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Vazquez?

COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: Yeah. Could we maybe ask
Raul if -- because it also sounds like what people are
asking for on public comment -- when we get speakers
scheduled, can we amend the agenda with their time
certain? So that way, again, at the beginning of each
meeting, folks have time certain, Friday at 10,
presentation.

MR. VILLANUEVA: Right. And that was the nature of
the clarification question that I was asking Marian
precisely. I had left a -- I had a left a space on the
agenda for that, and that's why.

CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Fernandez?

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yes, Raul. I think
Commissioner Vazquez -- what she was asking is now we
know it's going to be on Friday at 10, so could we amend
the agenda now and show that it's going to be on Friday
at 10; that way, if anyone else that's interested, knows
what time that's going to be discussed. I don't think
that's an issue from what Marian said because it's
already an agenda item. We're just adding a specific
date and time.
MS. JOHNSTON: Are you requesting that it be reposted with that change or just that it be announced with that change?

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Posted. Is that what you wanted?

COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: Reposted. Yeah.

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Posted, right? Yeah.

COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: Yeah. I would like it reposted.

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: That would be great.

MS. JOHNSTON: Are you able to do that?

MR. VILLANUEVA: It won't happen immediately.

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: That's okay. We already said it. We've already said; they're aware of it. But for those that aren't viewing right now, it'll be good information for them.

MR. VILLANUEVA: And if I may; the asterisk on that is -- is that presupposes that any discussion that we end with on Thursday, there's no carryover into Friday morning. And so that's a caveat there. So saying that it's going to happen at 10 precisely is kind of a misnomer.

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Well, at least we know it's going to happen on Friday. That's --

MR. VILLANUEVA: Right. Friday morning. Yes.
COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: That's a good starting point. And then --

MR. VILLANUEVA: (Indiscernible, simultaneous speech), yes.

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yeah. So it's better than not knowing if it's going to be a Wednesday, Thursday, or Friday. So it's a good starting point for people that are interested in that specific agenda item.

CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Sadhwani?

COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Thanks. Perhaps one -- I mean, the other piece that we haven't discussed -- I mean, I hope I'm not, like, saying anything that shouldn't be public knowledge. I think it all should, but, I mean, our intention then is to be in closed session Wednesday afternoon and all-day Thursday. I don't think that is quite written anywhere on the meeting agenda. But I think if those kinds of things, like, you know -- folks who are trying to listen in from around the state should probably just know, tomorrow we're not intending to have an open session because we have all of those interviews lined up and stuff scheduled.

And then the other piece, if it takes that long to post things to the internet, perhaps -- I don't know how you all -- I'm happy to, like, tweet out, like, that we're expecting folks at 10 a.m. Certainly, that's not
the whole list of everybody that we have there. But I think we've heard this comment several times from folks that they want more transparency in terms of our agenda. I know it's difficult because we'd have to, you know -- we're trying to put so many things together, but I think that we have to find solutions for this. We want an open and transparent process.

CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Le Mons?

COMMISSIONER LE MONS: I'd like to hear from commissioners that have recommendations on solving this. I feel like a lot of people are sort of complaining. But think about your concern and offer a solution, because there's a lot of variables that prevent this. And I think to frame it in a transparency context is a little off-putting to me. Because in no way is this about us not wanting to be transparent. We have to be very careful about us sitting here saying that, you know, people want transparency as if we aren't being transparent. I think we're trying to work out details on how to make this happen with all the variables that we have to consider. So I think we need to talk to staff. And I don't know how this happens; whether it happens with the subcommittee who is putting together the agenda, to understand all the mechanisms by which we can adjust it. Because to have, I think, these conversations with
fourteen people, I don't know if it's really a good use of time, in my opinion. I think that we establish subcommittees for a reason. So we raise these concerns; who's going to do the solutions? Because I don't hear that. I just hear, you know, this is wrong, and that's wrong, and we need to do this. And how do we get it done? I guess I like to jump to that discussion. How do we get it done, and who has the answers to the how? And I don't know if that's Marian and Raul or someone who has done this before. But I really would love to hear more of that.

CHAIR AHMAD: I saw Marian's hand and then Commissioner Andersen and Vazquez.

MS. JOHNSTON: Thank you. Part of it -- a lot of it is just staff limitations. Raul and I are just part-time employees, and we're all you've got right now. And when you're having a meeting, we have to be here. So to ask us to do things now that -- to happen right away, just can't happen. So if you would understand that. It will improve if you hire more staff.

COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Madam Chair, Commissioner Kennedy.

CHAIR AHMAD: Go ahead, Commissioner Kennedy.

COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: I didn't know whether there was anyone else in line before me.
CHAIR AHMAD: Vazquez and Andersen, are you okay with giving Commissioner Kennedy some space to talk?

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Absolutely.

CHAIR AHMAD: I'm sorry. Commissioner Kennedy, go ahead.

COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Thank you, Madam Chair. I'm sorry if I sound like a broken record on this, but the State Auditor's Office is obligated to provide us the support that we need until we are fully functional. And you know, if we need more support now, then the State Auditor's Office should provide us more support now. We can't be hobbled by these limitations in the meantime. Thank you.

CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Andersen and then Vazquez and then Le Mons?

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Thank you, Commissioner Kennedy and Commissioner Le Mons. I really appreciate those comments, because it is sort of a frustrating process. I would like to, Raul, sort of facilitate this conversation a little bit. I was talking to Raul about how do we do these things, and it turns out that because of the way it's posted, there's a delay. It isn't just as simple as, you know, what we're used to -- the general public is used to -- is I want to change this document; I change it; and then I replace the one that's on the
website. It isn't that simple. And that's the basic
issue that we're dealing with here.

Raul, is that -- am I just summing it up really
quickly and condensing exactly what's going on?

MR. VILLANUEVA: In part, Commissioner Andersen --
to the group, that conversation was in regards to the
posting of the recruitments, and those recruitments
connect to actual state processes. And so making a
change to one of those -- that's why it took so long to
establish it, and that's why it takes so long to make any
kind of change; because there's a whole lot backend
processes that are attached to it.

In regards to -- just focusing on the agenda and
members of the public wanting to know exactly when
something will occur, that's very difficult unless you
set everything by a timetable, and then you limit the
discussion and put the timetable first. So while that
can be done, there's a choice to be made on, like I said,
stopping the discussions. Otherwise, what you have is a
general time. On the other side with that, is as a
commission, if you choose to make changes and take an
agenda item in a different order, like has been suggested
now, instead of going into closed session immediately to
bring some things up to the front and put the closed
session after that, that's a choice that you have. Can
it confuse the public? Yes, but that's also your choice in terms of how you order your meeting. You can only announce things in real-time up to a certain point. You can make accommodations up to a certain point. There is those give and takes. But unless you limit your discussion and go on a timetable, people will always be asking you, so when exactly is that going to occur. So I can post something that says it's going to occur at 10 o'clock on Friday, but if something happens Thursday and you need to do additional work with that Friday morning, it's going to impact that. That's just the nature of the work.

And so I kind of agree with Commissioner Le Mons; I don't think we're trying to not be transparent; I don't think that's the issue. I think the issue is managing the discussion, scheduling how you approach things, and as your doing, to let the public know each step of the way, here's what we're doing today. This is our intent. And carrying out that intent as honestly as you can, knowing that things can change. Anyway, my two cents.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Thank you. Thank you very much, Raul. What I was actually specific -- is going more to the specifics of the details of how. And in terms of our just general information -- in terms of what we put down, what we want to summarize, and how we'd like
to make modifications on the agenda, then there's a time frame in which modifying that and updating it onto the website -- there's a bit of a delay there, and I think that's what we're trying to address. Just trying to shorten that up. And I totally agree with Commissioner Le Mons; we are not -- it's not as though we're trying to prevent that from happening. We just want to facilitate that to happen. And I'll be the first to nominate if we need a subcommittee. I will lead that subcommittee. So I'm going to put that in -- out there. If I need to make a motion to do that and whatever that would take, whether it be, get someone from the State Auditor's to do this. I think that's what Commissioner Kennedy -- and what we're sort of indicating we'd like to go to. If that's an action item that we should do. I'm asking for --

CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Vazquez? Oh, I'm sorry.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: No. So I'm asking for if other commissioners or specifically Raul, or -- do you think that needs to be moved to that level?

MR. VILLANUEVA: So one of your agenda topics, item number 10, is looking at contracts and procurement. I'm going to skip ahead real quick, not to talk about that, but to mention one of the contracts is to have an interim IT person.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Okay. That's all we need to
MR. VILLANUEVA: Yes.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Let's say -- then yes, we're going to talk about that in item number 11 -- or in item number --

MR. VILLANUEVA: Item number 10.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: -- 10.

MR. VILLANUEVA: Yes.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Perfect. Thank you very much.

CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Vazquez, Le Mons, and then Kennedy, maybe?

COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: So to reiterate my specific request, it may be -- understanding it may be a moot point given that there is quite a bit of lag in the IT department; the extent that we know a general time that things are scheduled, can we update today's agenda to reflect those time approximate -- maybe not time certain, but time approximate, and have those uploaded as soon as you are able, Raul, given everything that you're balancing. And then in the future -- for future agendas, as presenters get scheduled, if we can take that into consideration whether we need to update agendas before the meeting starts.

MR. VILLANUEVA: Yes.
CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Le Mons?

COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Yeah. I was going to say --

I was going to support Commissioner Andersen and say, if
we want to establish a troubleshooting subcommittee, I'd
be more than happy to join her on it, or we can --
actually, there's a lot of things that are going to come
up. And we talked about the meetings going long et
cetera. Part of the reason is, we spend a lot of time on
things like this, which is fine, it's not that these
things shouldn't get addressed, but I think we need to
have a better mechanism. I also think patience is
important. We don't have our staff, that's why we set up
these interviews. We're trying to get there. I think
that there's also little bit of a differential between
the first eight's experience and the additional six
experience. Last session was you guys' first meeting,
and so you're kind of jumped into this and probably are
having a very different -- well, you are having a very
different experience than we have in terms of, you know,

navigating each other's personalities, being accustomed
to how the processes kind of work so far even though it's
bumpy and cumbersome, kind of waiting it out. So I get
that today is a reaction to your experience from the last
meeting, and I respect that -- and I am sensitive to
that.
I think in order for us to move these foundational things that we need to get in place -- we'll be sailing soon much more smoothly, but it's going to be a little rocky for these first few meetings until we get our staff in place and other things. And if there is -- like for example, the troubleshooting committee can reach out to the State Auditor's Office and pursue Commissioner Kennedy's recommendations so that everything isn't just dumped on the staff; that's something that I'm absolutely prepared to do or any other things that we need to navigate. But I do want to point out that we only have two staff people right now, and our first order of business is to get staffed up so that we can move forward.

So let's just keep a little laundry list of all of our upset and the things that we don't like and what's not working, and we'll start to tick away at that list of getting it fixed. So I want the public to know that we stated from the very, very beginning how important public comment is to us. And I think everything that has really been raised, we've tried to adjust and make sure we have public comment at the beginning. So we're listening, we're committed, and transparency is at the forefront of what we're doing. And I just want to caution that we don't suggest anything other than that, because I haven't
experienced with any of you anything other than that. So that's all I'm going to say on that.

CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Kennedy and Fornaciari?

COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: The only thing that I would add to this at this point is, we've known for a while that tomorrow was going to be fully occupied with interviews, so, you know, the public can be aware of that. And how we reflect that on agendas in the future is something that we can troubleshoot. Thank you.

CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Fornaciari, did you have your hand up? And then Sinay.

COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Actually, I was just scratching my head, but since you called on me, I'll -- I think part of the challenge we're having here is that we haven't put together a set of ground rules on how we're going manage our meetings, you know. We just haven't done that. We haven't had time to do it. It seems like, you know, hiring and staffing up is, you know -- it's something we need to do and something we need to get going on, and obviously, we're doing that. I'm looking at the agenda for the next meeting, and maybe there's a little room in agenda item 14 for doing that. But, you know, I think maybe at least in the subsequent -- one of the subsequent meetings, we need to make some space to have those kinds of conversations.
CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Sinay?

COMMISSIONER SINAY: I don't think you meant it this way, Commissioner Le Mons, but you have pushed a few buttons today, and I think we all need to be a little careful. I have not felt a division, and I thought -- I was very happy to be part of the fourteen. I never felt a separation between the six and the eight. And you brought it up a couple of times last meeting as well, and I would like us -- you also are the one who said hey, let's just jump into this and not have the selected and the lucky, you know. We haven't used those names, so I would like us not to bring it up since we have worked well together. We do have different ways of working, and I think it was unfair -- Commissioner Sadhwani did give a solution by saying hey, I'll tweet it out if that's helpful; I can tweet it out as well. Solutions had been put out there, and we were told we were complaining. And part of the reason that the first group got a lot of pressure was because it wasn't as diverse and reflective of the whole community. And so we, you know -- we are going to think differently, and that's what we're supposed to. We're all supposed to be a little different.

I don't think you mean to press buttons, but I'd like us all to try to build each other up and build on
each other's strengths. I know your strength is to move
us forward as quickly as possible, and I do turn to you,
and I use you as -- I think before I speak and say, how
much will Commissioner Le Mons roll his eyes? As a joke;
I'm not saying it harshly. Sorry if it came off harsh.
But I just want us all to just be a little kinder to each
other, because I think that is what we're -- you know,
when we use the word transparency, that might mean
something different for those of us who are more grounded
in the community. And for some community people,
knowing -- their time is precious. And so knowing what
time things are is being transparent for them. But we're
being very transparent; we're in a fishbowl right now.
So I apologize, but I just want to make sure that we're
all a little kinder to each other as we move forward.

CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Vazquez?

COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: Yeah. If I can offer a
language adjustment. I think when I've heard people say
transparency, I think we're really talking about access.
Transparency, I think, has some negative connotations.
We're trying to make this more accessible, and I think
that that is what this conversation is about. So maybe
we need an accessibility committee which is this
troubleshooting, right? Like we keep -- we'll do things
and we'll realize oh, this wasn't as accessible as we had
intended it to be. So there's nothing nefarious, which I think transparency, especially when we're talking about government, has particular connotations. Access; we are trying to provide greater access. So accessibility.

CHAIR AHMAD: All right. So hearing the conversation, what I would propose for your consideration, is that we use the time we have now until 11:20 when we get our required break, to start agenda item number 9, and work through that agenda item. Then we will take our break at 11:20 -- I'm sorry; 11:05, and we return at 11:20. So we have three minutes. So after our break when we come back at 11:20, we start agenda number -- agenda item number 9. We complete that agenda item, hopefully before lunch. If we need to go on after lunch, we will continue the conversation after lunch. The idea I have is after that we will jump into closed session, and we will be in closed session until Friday morning. Friday morning we will return to open session. We will present the summary of what occurred during closed session and then move along the remaining items of the agenda.

How does that sound to everyone? Do I see any objections?

Marian and Raul, do you all have any thoughts on that?
MS. JOHNSTON: That's perfect.

CHAIR AHMAD: Okay.

MR. VILLANUEVA: Very succinctly stated. Thank you, Chair Ahmad.

CHAIR AHMAD: I'm sorry there's no time stamps associated with anything, but we will -- that's our general idea.

So right now, it's 11:03. Let's take a fifteen-minute break, and we can return at 11:17. And then we will start with agenda item number 9.

(Whereupon, a recess was held from 11:03 a.m. until 11:17 a.m.)

CHAIR AHMAD: Welcome back from break. We will be jumping into item number 9 which is the Subcommittee Updates.

So going down the list, Action on Census. Commissioner Sadhwani and Toledo?

COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: I can go. So thank you to all the commissioners who contributed their edits and sent us their edits via email or in person at the last meeting. We used those edits to finalize the letters. The letters were then signed and sent out. And currently, we're just monitoring the litigation, and there's no recommendation at this time. I don't know if Commissioner Sadhwani has any additional updates.
COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Yeah. I would just add that there have been new bills sent out -- introduced. Marian had mentioned those; they are bipartisan bills. In the Senate, it's Democrat Brian Schatz from Hawaii and Senator Lisa Murkowski from -- a republican for Alaska. On the House side, it's Representative Don Young, a Republican from Alaska. Also, Ruben Gallego, a Democrat from Arizona. Again, it's just pushing for the extension to the census figures that would require the census to continue its work through October and push that deadline for the data to come to the states to August 2021.

You know, I don't have a strong recommendation there. Certainly, we could, you know, do another letter specific to these bills if we wanted to. I would love to urge them to move that legislation forward. It's basically the same kind of the thing as what we had seen before, but this time a bipartisan approach. Certainly, Senator Murkowski has been in the news of late, so I don't know if this is like a top priority for her or not; you know, I have no sense of that.

COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: I guess, one final comment would just be that once we have a communications director that may be publicizing the letters, either through -- our position, rather -- the position stated in the letters may be a way to just -- to communicate with the
public our support for our position and get the word out there a little bit more and include potentially these types of legislation. So just having that additional staff capacity would certainly help in communicating these types of positions in the future.

CHAIR AHMAD: Are there any questions or comments from other commissioners on action on census subcommittee?

Yes, Commissioner Sinay?

COMMISSIONER SINAY: I think once we're able to make the letters public, which I understand we're getting there, hopefully, our community partners -- those that want to partner with us, and I do consider them a community partners -- can share our perspective and, you know, they have more of an infrastructure than we do right now.

But I was shocked in talking to someone this week that they just said that even if the census moves forward, that there's going to be so much litigation that we won't have any data. That was a lot more weak than I had heard the information in the -- you know, heard everyone talking to us -- who had talked to us. So that just this whole idea that the litigation may stop everything, it was kind of a shock. So if anyone knows -- has any updates or thoughts on that.
CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Fornaciari?

COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: So the assertion was that litigation is going to stop the census data from being released? Do they have any crystal ball to just -- when or how long; or just indefinitely?

COMMISSIONER SINAY: The sense that -- you know, this was our conversation with Ben (ph.) at NCLS. And he had said that a lot of people in the world of is really feeling that the litigation will prevent the data from coming out because the litigation will be around the quality of the data.

CHAIR AHMAD: Marian, I saw your hand up.

MS. JOHNSTON: I was just going to suggest to the subcommittee, I think the action at the last meeting was to authorize you to send letters on legis -- pending legislation. I don't think you need new authority to go ahead and send it on the two new bipartisan bills if you choose to do so.

COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Thank you. Is there a consensus amongst the Commission that that is something we want to move forward? Any objection?

CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Andersen.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Particularly, I would recommend that we do go ahead because it is consistent with our mission, and particularly the bipartisan. That
is completely what our commission is about. You know, this is -- this isn't a -- it shouldn't be a partisan item. We should all have the correct information equally, and that's what we're all about. So I would certainly propose that we can -- that you do go ahead and draft up the letters.

My only thing is, and I don't mean this as a stop, but could you -- could the letter be sent? I don't know if that was -- if that's within the purview of the -- of our procedure, not that would be say, okay. Everyone has to approve it before it goes, it's just if you have a serious objection or something before it goes, but I believe it would be very similar. So that was my two cents.

CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Kennedy.

COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Madam Chair, I have a question for counsel, and this may actually require some research, so I'm not necessarily expecting an immediate answer. I know that in the past, cases have gone all the way to the Supreme Court where one state is suing another state over apportionment, and what happens if there is a dispute over the apportionment? Do we go ahead and draw maps on the basis of the initial apportionment, and then if California were to be, for example, sued by Texas in the Supreme Court over a disputed seat and Texas
eventually prevails, we would then have to redraw the Congressional maps? Thank you.

MS. JOHNSTON: I think that is correct, and hopefully that litigation would be on a fast track so that you could take the decision into account when you're drawing your lines the first time around, but if, for instance, California were to lose a Congressional seat, those maps would have to be redrawn.

COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Thank you.

CHAIR AHMAD: Any other questions or comments at this time related to this particular subcommittee?

Yes, Commissioner Fernandez.

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: I don't know if -- I just re-read the letter. Well, I don't know what action went out, but I re-read the letter that -- the draft letter from last time, and that was very well-written. I don't know when we want to add a little bit more. You know, we talk about COVID, but then especially in California and some other states, those communities that have been displaced because of the fires. So now again, there's an added obstacle to having a reliable member. So I don't know if that's something that we want to consider.

COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: I think that's a great idea, and I'd be happy to add language to that effect.

CHAIR AHMAD: I have a question. Maybe this
question is for Raul or the subcommittee. There were
several iterations of the draft addressed to various
people. Do we have a clear sense of which letters
actually went out and which ones we did not send out?

MR. VILLANUEVA: So there were a lot of iterations,
and we depended on the subcommittee to direct which ones
were the final ones, which from my perspective, they were
well able to do so, and those were the ones that were
then printed and sent to the Chair for signature because
I think all the information, excuse me, was coming into
them and not to Marian and I. They were coming in to
them directly.

CHAIR AHMAD: I'm sorry. Maybe I should clarify.
So the -- who did we send the letters to? There were
several people. We had senators on the list. We had --

MR. VILLANUEVA: Yes.

CHAIR AHMAD: -- census bureau staff, if we had that
information. If you need time to look that up, that's
fine too.

Commissioner Fornaciari, and then Kennedy, and then
Turner.

COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Just to comment, I'm
really quite comfortable with the job that the
subcommittee did in drafting those letters and putting
them together, and I'm completely comfortable with them,
you know, making whatever minor tweaks they feel they need to make to a draft to send it in support of these bipartisan bills.

CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Kennedy, and then Turner.

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Could I just jump in quickly? What I actually meant to say is just more in terms of can we just get a copy essentially so we know the final thing that went out? That was more rather than -- I didn't mean that we need to review it because I agree with Commissioner Fornaciari.

CHAIR AHMAD: That was my question too. I understand.

Commissioner Kennedy, and then Turner.

COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: I have nothing further at this point, Madam Chair. Thank you.

MR. VILLANUEVA: Then I'll send those --

CHAIR AHMAD: Now --

MR. VILLANUEVA: -- out to the group today.

COMMISSIONER TURNER: Okay. Madam Chair, I was just go to add to your question. The letters went to Senator Kamala Harris, Wilbur Ross, Representative Caroline Maloney, and Senator Ron Johnson.

CHAIR AHMAD: Thank you.

MR. VILLANUEVA: And Director Dillingham.

COMMISSIONER TURNER: Oh, did I miss one? Thank
CHAIR AHMAD: Do we have any other questions, comments, concerns for action on census subcommittee?

No? Okay.

Commissioner Le Mons.

COMMISSIONER LE MONS: I guess I have more of a process question with regard to updates, particularly since we've discussed subcommittee updates being a standing part of our agendas moving forward, at least for the time being. So the questions that were asked with regard to the final letter, whom it went to, et cetera, I guess my question is there seems to be like some un-- lack of clarity between who would report that.

So I guess my expectation would be that the subcommittee would report that, like, they would have the end-to-end understanding of everything that has gone down, or they instruct staff to report that when raised, but it just seemed to be confusion about who knew what.

So I'm just kind of putting that out there for subcommittees in general that my thought is or my expectation would be that the subcommittees who take on whatever particular responsibility that they take on, that they're reporting back during this process, you know, end to end, what happened, outcomes, et cetera, recommendations, so on and so forth.
CHAIR AHMAD: Any additional questions, comments at
this time? Seeing none, we can move on to item B, 9B,
which is the hiring of the executive director. So I will
hand the floor over to Commissioners Fernandez and
Kennedy to give the update regarding that item.

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Well, actually the update
on that is we'll be dealing with that the rest of today,
and then also tomorrow, and hopefully -- a hopeful
outcome is that we'll have a chosen candidate.

CHAIR AHMAD: Do we have any questions or comments
for Commissioners Fernandez and Kennedy at this time?

MS. JOHNSTON: There is one matter that I think
should be discussed in open session, which has to do with
some of the commissioners not being able to be there for
the full time tomorrow and how the Commission wants to
deal with that issue.

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: So in terms of -- Marian,
if I'm understanding you correctly is there's a
possibility that all commissioners can't be there for
every interview, so they might be there for some of the
interviews, and my suggestion for that would be that they
obviously give feedback for the interviews that they were
present for, and then rely on the other -- the rest of
the commissioners in terms of feedback for those
interviews that they're not present for.
MS. JOHNSTON: And I think you expressed one other concern, that if they miss an interview, they miss the entire interview, they not come in during the middle of an interview?

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Right. And that was -- I thinking more of it could be distracting somewhat, and I'm not sure how especially doing -- it could be distracting to the candidate, and I would hate for them to be distracted. Also, if there's somebody else in there. I'm not sure. I have no idea what this is going to look like tomorrow, and it may not be distracting. So I kind of have to wait and see, or we have to wait and see.

CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Kennedy.

COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: I have nothing to add at this point. Thank you.

CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Le Mons, and then Sinay.

COMMISSIONER LE MONS: We'll -- I just want to confirm we'll have a quorum for each of the interviews, yes?

MS. JOHNSTON: Yes.

COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Okay. And then the second thing would be that I would support not joining in the middle. I think that is disruptive to a candidate, to have a new party just join the interview process. So my
recommendation would be that if a commissioner is not present for that interview, that they sit that particular interview out, and again, following Commissioner Fernandez's other recommendations, I support those as well.

MS. JOHNSTON: We could ask Raul to let the commissioners who are absent know when the next interview starts so then they may join at that time. He's not going to be participating in the interviews. So --

MR. VILLANUEVA: Someone would have to tell me, but I'd be --

MS. JOHNSTON: Right.

MR. VILLANUEVA: -- more than happy to do that.

MS. JOHNSTON: Well, it will be when the one -- one interviewee leaves, then we'll know it's over.

MR. VILLANUEVA: Well, but then will the group then need time to collect their notes?

MS. JOHNSTON: Right.

MR. VILLANUEVA: Do you want them to come in after that?

MS. JOHNSTON: Well, that's --

MR. VILLANUEVA: That's --

MS. JOHNSTON: That could give them time to.

MR. VILLANUEVA: Once you notify me, I'd be happy to do so.
CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Sinay, Sadhwani, and then Akutagawa.

COMMISSIONER SINAY: I'm one of the ones that won't be able to be at -- I have a one-hour -- less than a one-hour facilitation I need to do tomorrow. I had kind of scheduled it thinking that I'd miss the end of one interview and could jump in on the others so I wouldn't miss any. I'm fine, I just want clarification if I shouldn't even be on the one I'm going to have to jump off of? Because I will be -- yeah. As I said, it's about a half an hour, 45 minutes.

And second of all, if we keep our video off, we can still hear the interview, and so I want that to be okay because I don't -- I think it's important for us to hear the interview. I also think it's important then maybe today when we do the questions to also share -- I mean, I have some concerns, and I have some positives and stuff that I want to hear about certain candidates, and unless those get answered, I don't think I can make a decision.

CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Sadhwani, Akutagawa, and then Turner.

COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Yeah. I think that my question was the same, actually. I have an hour where I have to step away. Would it be okay to start the interview, at least for those first 15 minutes, and then
step away, or would folks feel like that is also
distracting?

CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Akutagawa, and then
Turner, and then I think we should discuss the questions
on the floor.

COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Yeah. I have a similar --
I have the same questions as Commissioners Sinay and
Sadhwani. I have to step away for a bit today, and then
for a very short time tomorrow. I was intending to just
leave my connection up, but to turn my video off, and if
it's preferable, I can just keep my video off for the
entirety of an interview where I know I'm going to have
to leave midway through, and then another interview where
I'm going to have to join partway through, I'm happy to
just keep the video off so it's not distracting, but I'd
like to be able to listen in.

MS. JOHNSTON: Just for information for those of you
who aren't sitting here, all of you appear on a Brady
Bunch type screen. So the candidate will be able to see
people who come on and off of videos, but it's still your
decision about how you want to handle, whether that's
going to be your procedure or not.

CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Turner.

COMMISSIONER TURNER: Yes. Thank You, Madam Chair.
I personally think that it is a good example of what will
happen in the field on a regular basis. I don't think that it is such a negative to have candidates know up front that there will be commissioners that, you know, have over engagements that will come and go. I think, Commissioners, where it could get disruptive if indeed you're not going to be on for the full interview or have an opportunity to perhaps hear a response to a question, maybe you shouldn't necessarily ask questions, but to come and go and have different people, I'm not concerned about that for -- particularly for what we're asking our executive director to be able to do and accomplish with a lot of different variables as they move forward, number one.

The other thing is is I guess I wanted to respond to is that I'm hopeful not just for this situation, but for anything going forward. For any time period that I'm not going to be a participant, I do want to be able to rely and trust on the other thirteen that's sitting on this Commission, and not hold up any forward movement because I was not -- I didn't choose or could not personally be involved. So I'm making that comment specifically.

Commissioner Sinay, you mentioned, I'd like to be in involved in a lot too. So that's a hard thing lose, but I also think it's a trust issue for the other commissioners, and we don't want to hold proceedings
because we've missed time and now we can't necessarily move forward. This is where trust of the other commissioners, I think will come in.

CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Fornaciari, and then Kennedy.

COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: I just want to say, you know, I agree with that. If we give the candidates a heads up at the beginning commissioners may be coming and going. You know, I think we have to be able to accommodate that, we have to expect our executive director to be able to, you know, deal with minor distractions like that.

CHAIR AHMAD: Commission Kennedy, and then Andersen.

COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Madam Chair, my only concern with a number of people indicating that they might have to be out at some point is Commissioner Le Mons' question from earlier. Are we certain that we are going to have a quorum at all times? Because we have to -- we have to make decisions on personnel matters through our super majority rules. Thank you.

MS. JOHNSTON: As far as I know, that's only -- the three that are absent will not pose a problem. If there are others of you who are not going to be here for the entire day, if you would let us know, we can ensure that we do what's necessary.
CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Andersen.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Yeah. I would like to say since I was the person who was actually attending in person all of the first seven -- the first eight group, the idea -- and it's hard not being in the room to see what it would look like in terms of it being distracting. It's basically a television screen that you're looking at, and I think there will be, I think I believe it's three commissioners in attendance as well as Marian, and then, you know, court -- a few reporters, things around, and the person being there then to look at a small screen if someone changes or something, I really don't think that's a distraction other than, which we -- Commissioner Turner and Commissioner Fornaciari mentioned that that's something they should definitely be able to handle given the position that we're requesting them to do.

So I really don't see -- I know it's kind of a respect thing about coming in and out of even during the middle of an interview, and if it was in person, that's a completely different thing. No, I don't think -- you know, that is distracting. In and out on a little tiny screen, particularly when there's a group, because what you don't understand is sometimes just on the screen itself, like we see it how it rearranges as times even when it isn't like someone's just going off. At times,
it will just sort of rearrange. That's what it would
really look like, and it's far away from you. You can
see it's far away from you.

So I really don't think that's a distraction, and I
think it would be actually helpful, even if the people
would just like to listen in, to get as much information
to as many of the commissioners as possible. So I know
we've sort of said, well, you know, we really shouldn't
be listening in, or -- but I do agree with the questions.

MS. JOHNSTON: Just one clarification about the
process. There will be no court reporter. I'll be
taking minutes, and that will be it.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Okay. So -- but there still
we be technical in the room, correct?

MS. JOHNSTON: The vid -- yeah, videographers,
right.

MR. VILLANUEVA: But no video.

MS. JOHNSTON: What?

CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Yee.

MS. JOHNSTON: So they can broadcast it to everyone,
the web -- Webinar.

COMMISSIONER YEE: Could we hear a little bit more
about how the actual questioning we expect to proceed with that? I mean, is the subcommittee going to put questions to the candidates, and then, you know, other commissioners perhaps add additional questions? Is that what we're thinking or what?

CHAIR AHMAD: Marian, you can correct me if I'm wrong, but this is an items for discussion during closed session?

MS. JOHNSTON: Correct.

CHAIR AHMAD: So we will get to that soon, Commissioner Yee.

Any other questions? Commissioner Fernandez.

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: My only other comment is if we do -- you know, if those commissioners that won't be there for the whole time and, you know, they mute, which is fine, I just want to remind everyone that is closed session. So if someone else is in the room or maybe wear headphones because no one else is supposed to hear what's going on during the interview. So that would be my own concern if we move forward that way.

CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Yee.

COMMISSIONER YEE: So for those commissioners who will be stepping away at times, I mean, just let us know if there are things that you absolutely want and need to have asked, and we'll try to do our best to do so.
Yeah.

CHAIR AHMAD: I would like to bring back to the group for discussion just because I didn't get a sense of clarity on how we are going to proceed. So are those commissioners who will be absent for a portion of the interview, whether it be at the beginning or the end of an interview, are they sitting out for the whole interview, are they going to come in at some point and remain silent, or are they going to jump back in as if they were there the whole interview? I just want to make sure that we're all on the same page with that piece.

Commissioner Turner.

COMMISSIONER TURNER: Yeah. My hope is that they will be allowed to come in and out to be able to hear as much as possible, and I'm also hoping that they will not ask questions because often, they'll ask a question that could have already been visited while they were gone, and so I love what Commissioner Yee said. If -- as we're in closed session, if there are specifics that need to be asked, et cetera, we can have that discussion at that time and ensure that we cover all ground to make everyone comfortable.

So I guess my view of what I'm hoping would happen is that commissioners should be able to hear as much as they can for the time period that they are, and we will
curate the space in a way that says those asking the
questions will be those that are able to be there for the
full time and hear responses.

CHAIR AHMAD: Yes, Commissioner Le Mons.

COMMISSIONER LE MONS: I think there was one more
point on that, which was their participation in the post-
interview discussion after each candidate. My thought
would be if they're in and out, then they should
participate based on what they heard because that would
be the whole point, right? So I just wanted to make sure
that that piece of the consideration was also covered in
whatever decision we end up with.

CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Fernandez.

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: So I think it sounds like
what we want to do is move forward. They can come
forward, but they'll remain silent and not ask questions,
but they will be involved in the discussion, obviously.
So I think that's what was majority, right? I'm set.
Okay.

CHAIR AHMAD: Can I get a thumbs up if we're all
okay with that? Okay.

I'm assuming, Commissioner Kennedy, you have your
thumbs up?

COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Yes, I do.

CHAIR AHMAD: All right. Any remaining questions or
thoughts on 9bB. Seeing none, let's move on to 9C, hiring of chief counsel.

Commissioners Anderson and Toledo, do you have any updates for us?

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Yes, we do. Basically, we got together and had a quick meeting. We ended up writing a -- basically, a posting, which is now on its called the dailyjournal.com. It is essentially the legal mag gene that that's used throughout California. It's actually posted in -- they actually have fourteen different essentially newspapers, and it's online as well.

If you go to dailyjournal.com, you will see that posting, and it refers to -- we actually got -- I can read that, if you'd like. It's quite short, and then it refers to the job bulletin, which is still on the We Draw the Lines, and then it has for inquiries, which is how they actually apply, it's called votersfirstact. -- but it's a CLCD.CA.gov, that way it all funnels to the same mechanism, and they all come in looking the same in terms of their interview documents.

That got posted, I believe it was actually just yesterday, and it will be -- the way they do this, is runs for a certain period of time. It will also include, there's -- on Fridays, they do a very large sort of a
special where they highlight different job opportunities, and this is one that will be highlighted.

So that went in, and it is sort of running its course, and that's where we are, but what I would like to do at this time, which is why I think it's very important that this is the general meeting here is we'd like to get any of our community partners out there who are listening to please spread the word for the details of this. It's dailyjournal.com. They probably are -- since many of those groups actually have redistricting personnel, they're very familiar with this publication, and it essentially refers everyone to how to do -- basically how to take it from there. So if we could just get our community partners who are listening to please help us post this everywhere, that would be great.

So Pedro, did you want to say additional?

COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: I just wanted to add that any commissioner who wants to forward the advertisement, they're more than -- you're more than able to on social media or otherwise forward the announcement to your networks, and we did reach out to Professor Lovett and just ask that them to -- and other speakers to ask them to publicize the announcement, just as we are doing all of our community partners, just to get the message out there and to try to get a qualified pool, a larger
qualified pool of candidates.

CHAIR AHMAD: Do you have any additional points to add to your update before I move to questions or comments from the group?

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: No, just questions or --

CHAIR AHMAD: Okay. So questions or comments from the group?

Commissioner Fornaciari.

COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: So the announcement gets sent out to the mailing list that we have?

MR. VILLANUEVA: That will occur today.

COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Okay.

CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Fernandez.

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: And I can find out by just going on the -- our website, but when's the final filing date for the new advertisement?

MR. VILLANUEVA: For both, it will be September 30.

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: So it just went out to our mailing list today, and it's due September 30th, Raul; is that right?

MR. VILLANUEVA: It didn't just go out to the mailing list. It went out on the newspaper ad -- advertisement, it's been on the State website. Actually, I heard from an organization in New York who's interested in wanting to participate in the recruitment. So it's
gone out fairly widely. So with the mail chip -- mail
chimp, I'm still learning that. So I learned it last
week, and so I should have one out today while you're
enclosed session.

CHAIR AHMAD: Any other questions or comments for
hiring of chief counsel?

Commissioner Sinai. I'm not sure if I saw your hand
go up, your hand up. Okay.

Commissioner Kennedy.

COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Yes. Thank you, Madam Chair.

I just wanted to check with Raul. I had submitted a
number of other options for posting these job
applications, California Association of Counties,
California Association of Clerks and Election Officials,
electionline.org. I just want to know if those went out
to them or if I'll need to send them out to them.

INTERIM DEPUTY VILLANUEVA: So what I did with those
is, I forwarded those to the subcommittees who then made
the decisions regarding where things would be posted,
where the advertisements would go.

COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: Okay. Thank you.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Actually, Commissioner
Kennedy, it was a little hard -- I didn't have the actual
notes on that quite as well. So if you could go ahead
and forward that, we'd appreciate it. Unless Pedro is --
I did not actually go ahead and send that to those troops, because I didn't have the details. So unless Pedro did.

COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: I didn't forward it to those groups. Happy to do so, or if you have connections with those groups, we're happy to go down the list as well.

INTERIM DEPUTY VILLANUEVA: And actually, I thought a lot of those suggestions were for the Communications Director and not for the Chief Counsel.

COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Now, there were some that were specific to Chief Counsel, but then others that were for any and all of the postings.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: So Commissioner Kennedy, could you -- whatever's more efficient. The ones for the counsel, if you can either take care of that yourself or let one of us know which particular ones those were, that'd be great. So

COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: I'll go ahead and -- I'll go ahead and send them out once I can get to the announcement itself.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Okay, great. Thank you.

COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Thank you.

CHAIR AHMAD: I have a question for Marian and Raul. So at this point, since we are publicizing very wisely the hiring of a Chief Counsel, we as a Commission can go
into our own independent networks as well to advertise this position, correct?

MS. JOHNSTON: Yes. It's a public announcement.

CHAIR AHMAD: So in case folks have a network that you would want to share that information with.

MS. JOHNSTON: The wider, the better.

CHAIR AHMAD: Yes.

INTERIM DEPUTY VILLANUEVA: And I sent the -- I sent the Commissioners a copy of the ad this morning, so everybody should have gotten that.

CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Le Mons.

COMMISSIONER LE MONS: I have a process question. I understand that with the subcommittees is the communication between only two Commissioners. And so I want to be clear that I understand to what degree other Commissioners can communicate with the subcommittee directly versus processing communication with the subcommittee through staff.

MS. JOHNSTON: We would like it to come through staff, and then we will forward it so that we are kept in the loop, so to speak.

COMMISSIONER LE MONS: And so that means that -- let's say, for example, that I had some resources that I wanted this particular announcement to go to. I would send them to staff with my desire for them to be
submitted to the subcommittee for consideration for
distribution, and then, yeah, kind of walk that through
for me.

MS. JOHNSTON: Yes, that's how it should work.

COMMISSIONER LE MONS: And then the subcommittee
would, of course -- now, what if they had questions about
what I submitted?

MS. JOHNSTON: They could come to you directly with
those questions. Right?

COMMISSIONER LE MONS: They could come directly to
me with those questions?

MS. JOHNSTON: Right.

COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Now, would I respond to those
questions to them directly, or would I send my response
through staff to them?

MS. JOHNSTON: How about a compromise and you send
it to staff and the subcommittee?

COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Okay.

MS. JOHNSTON: I don't want to pose an extra lag
time in there. I just want to be sure that we're kept
informed.

COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Okay.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Marian, could I say -- could
I, again, just clarification, this would apply to all the
different subcommittees. Is it okay to send it to, like,
say, Commissioner Le Mons wants to send something about
the council? Is it okay to essentially send one email
copying the staff and the subcommittee?

MS. JOHNSTON: Yes, that would be okay.

COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Clarification on that. Would
it be more appropriate to send it to staff and copy the
subcommittee, or the other way around?

MS. JOHNSTON: Your preference. There's no magic
rule on that.

COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Okay. And then, Madam Chair,
I have one more subcommittee -- not the ones listed --
question for when it's appropriate during this agenda
item.

CHAIR AHMAD: Yes. Commissioner Sadhwani.

COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: On the same point, I think,
for the Census subcommittee. At what point does it then
become a serial meeting? So if another Commissioner is
emailing the two members of a subcommittee and the staff,
the subcommittee cannot respond; is that correct?

MS. JOHNSTON: You can respond as long as you don't
get to be a quorum. So if it's just the two of you to
one of the commissioners, there's no problem with that.
But then that should not be distributed to everybody on
the Commission.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: So sorry. I think this will
clarify; say like, specifically, on your letters. Say, if I have comments and I send them to the staff and to both you and Commissioner Toledo. And then you might say, you know, we didn't like it, clarify, get it all cleaned up, and then send it back to me. But then I never see anything that goes, say, from Commissioner Fernandez that does the same. And so not until the document is completed, and then you will be showing it to everybody. That's the time when everyone hears about it.

MS. JOHNSTON: Correct.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Is that correct?

MS. JOHNSTON: That's correct.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Okay.

COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Okay. Thank you for that question. I feel like we have had a situation in which another commissioner had -- I can go back and check my emails, but the response was, careful; this is becoming a serial meeting, so I appreciate that clarification, and I will go back --

MS. JOHNSTON: And the other option, if you wish something you consider important enough to have everybody involved, is to do it during a notice meeting.

COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Right. Of course.

CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Akutagawa and Kennedy.

COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: So I want to make sure I'm
understanding this correctly. So I think I heard that if we wanted to share something with the entire Commission (audio interference) staff so that you're kept in the loop versus just sending something to staff to then redistribute to the Commission?

MS. JOHNSTON: Yes. If it's through the entire Commission, because that will do as a warning on there, not to discuss it with each other, but just to reply to the staff.

COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Got it. Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Kennedy.

COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Nothing at this time, Madam Chair. Thank you.

CHAIR AHMAD: Do we have any additional questions/comments on hiring of the Chief Counsel? Seeing none. The next subcommittee is the hiring of Communications Director. Commissioners Taylor and Commissioner Vazquez, do you all have an update for us?

COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: So we have made the edits as per our discussion from our last meeting to the Communications Director recruitment posting. We then, let's see, the Royal Week, Raul has been doing the work to get that advertised, get that reposted across several, hopefully, wider spread distribution lists.

So specifically, it went out in The Nooner and the
Capitol Morning Report. And those have pretty wide circulation in Sacramento and political government circles, so hoping to get a wide distribution there. And then the website, idealist.org, which has wide circulation around community groups and nonprofits.

So especially because the discussion around the Communications Director was really centered around their ability to support and even lead outreach to several diverse communities and ethnic communities, hoping that that really widened that, gets us some high-quality candidates, in addition to the candidates that we had gotten sort of through the first wave.

So we did commit to keeping folks in the pool who had already applied via the first process. I don't believe that we heard back from anybody around withdrawing their application. We did also offer the option of amending their materials based on the new posting, if they so wish.

So hopefully, like I said, we are on track to growing our pool for the Communications Director position.

CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Taylor, do you have anything to add?

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: No. Commissioner Vazquez said it very well and succinctly. I also encourage us to use
your channels and our partners to reach out. Our goal is to have this done fairly shortly, within the two weeks that we agreed upon, so that we can begin to filter the applications and we can move on to the next phase.

CHAIR AHMAD: Are there any questions or comments from the group regarding the hiring of Communications Director? No questions? Commissioner Sadhwani.

COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Very quick. Is it possible for someone to send us the link of where we can find it so we can send it out? I know several different places.

COMMISSIONER SINAY: I've got it open. Is it okay for me to send it --

MS. JOHNSTON: Yes.

COMMISSIONER SINAY: -- or not? Okay. I'll send it out right now.

CHAIR AHMAD: All right. Commissioner Kennedy, just checking in with you. Do you have any thoughts or questions on this particular subcommittee or for this subcommittee?

COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: I'm looking at the job posting, and it has a final filing date of Friday. Was that intended or was this to be 30 September as well?

MS. JOHNSTON: If you're talking about the one on the state website, I contacted them yesterday because they changed the date on it, and I have directed them to
fix that.

COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Perfect. Thank you.

CHAIR AHMAD: All right. Thank you for that update.

Moving on to the Finance Subcommittee. Commissioners Fornaciari and Fernandez, you have the floor.

COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Let's see. I don't think we have a whole lot to report at this point. We want to get with Raul and with the budget. Raul has been super busy with other stuff. Hopefully, he's going to -- you know, he'll come to us with the -- I think at the next meeting with some interim temporary staff.

A couple of things, though -- updates that I want to give that I did. One question was about whether the computers we have will run ArcGIS, and the answer is no. And so there's not enough memory on the hard drives to download the software, plus, I'm pretty sure that the processing horsepower is not -- it might run, but it won't be adequate. I mean, no big rush on that. It's something we need to think about.

The other thing that I didn't get a chance to talk to Raul about that I thought about, I mean, I think part of the problem some of the folks might be having is with these cheap webcams that we have. And I'm just wondering if we can get the folks who need better webcams, if that's an option. And I didn't get a chance to talk to
Raul about that. But maybe what we can do is, is those
of you who are struggling with your microphones or having
problems with your webcam, maybe you can let Raul know,
and maybe we can look into getting some more decent
webcams for those folks.

Oh, and then Raul just sent out the historical
budget that we're going to talk about, I think, at the
next meeting. And so what the plan is here is to kind of
look at the historical budget, look at the burn rate that
we're -- the remote we're looking at right now, and
couple that with the Gantt chart that's coming out, and I
have an idea where we're headed with the budget, how many
meetings we think we can afford, that kind of thing. But
again, we're in the early days and we'll get on that, you
know, as soon as we can. But, you know, other things I
think are more pressing at this point.

CHAIR AHMAD: Do we have any questions or comments
for the Finance Subcommittee? Yes. Commissioner Turner,
and then Fernandez.

COMMISSIONER TURNER: Yeah. I just wanted some
clarification. Are we waiting for the Finance Committee
to update the computers, or are we needing to submit
something? I thought, the computers when they were
received, that once we had our full Commission they were
being switched out as well as the phones. And so it
sounds like I'm hearing something different, so I'd just like that clarified, please.

COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Okay. I hadn't heard about the computers being switched out. I thought we were just switching out the phones.

COMMISSIONER TURNER: And it certainly could have been hopeful thinking, I don't know. I'm just asking, what is the plan?

COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Okay. So you mentioned you wanted a -- you were a Mac person, right?

COMMISSIONER TURNER: Right. And I understand that the technology or the software won't work with a Mac --

COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Okay.

COMMISSIONER TURNER: -- so I did make peace with that. But it's still a very heavy old computer to move around. And so I just was still in the mindset that this was a temporary piece of equipment that was going to be upgraded with the phones.

COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Okay. Yeah, that wasn't part of my thinking. I'll just share -- I guess I didn't share. I thought we might be looking at getting, you know, a few computers that can run ArcGIS, but I mean, maybe that's not the right approach. Maybe we need to think of a different approach there. And that's raising a lot of hands.
CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Fernandez, Sinay, and then Kennedy.

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yeah. I think in the last meeting where we were with -- there's a few people that are having issues -- I think that Commissioner Sinay is having issues with her computer and there's a few others, and those were going to be replaced.

And then I just wanted to add a little bit more on the Budget Committee. Raul did forward some contracts that we'll be reviewing for discussion on Friday, Agenda Item Number 10. And again, in terms of the budget that he's putting together, it'll show obviously, 2010, and what their budget was and what their expenditures were, and then we'll start a budget for 2020 showing the expenditures and what expenditures and encumbrances because obviously, that'll give us a good idea of -- at some point in time if we need to go back and request additional funds. But at some point in time, when we hire the budget or finance person, hopefully, that'll be their task in terms of continuing to look at those line items -- that line item detail. So that's all I have.

CHAIR AHMAD: Thank you.

COMMISSIONER SINAY: I listened in on the NCLS free webinar on technology and redistricting and there's a ton of questions that we need to look through and think
through, and if we're each going to have one or if we're going to do one that's online. And so maybe Commissioner -- we could just have to wait a little to make any decisions like that because I think there'll be a lot of budget questions.

I do recommend the webinar. Karin, who has presented to us, was one of the presenters, and there's just a lot of stuff I didn't know about that helped me feel like, okay, now I know what to do.

COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Can you send a link to that?

COMMISSIONER SINAY: Yeah. I can send it out to all of you. It was part of the link that was sent out last meeting of all the different trainings, but I'll send out the link to just that one again, because I know Google Mail is not very easy to manage. So I'll get it out to you all.

COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Okay. So I mean, you know, there are web-based mapping applications, too, but then there's -- you know, we've got to consider security issues in the big picture, too. I was also kind of waiting, I guess -- I apologize, Commissioner Le Mons. I should have my act together a little bit better than I do right now, and I should be telling the full story.

We're getting this presentation on redistricting
software. You know, the state database is making a --
you know, it's putting together a free tool to use. You
know, I kind of thought we had a little bit of time to
better understand what was happening down the road and
make a decision on what we were going to do with
computers for mapping and that kind of thing. But it
sounds like there's two different issues here.

It sounds like some people have computers that just
aren't working for them at this point, and we should get
them computers that work. And then we need to come up
with a strategy and figure out what we're doing with how
we're going to manage mapping software and doing that
work.

CHAIR AHMAD: Yes, Commissioner Anderson.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: You know, I understand the
idea that we definitely need to figure out the software
that the state is proposing, and that's why I thought we
were waiting on the computers. But if people are having
issues right now and need new computers, we don't want to
be getting different kinds of computers based on, you
know, oh, well, okay, that'll do. That's kind of good
enough, but not good enough. You know, it's like it's
okay, but not good enough.

And the idea that all of us don't have a computer
that can do the software, I have a real problem with.
That's because we can't -- you know, we can't do our jobs. I mean, that's like -- you know, I mean, this is -- our jobs are to draw the lines, and if our computers aren't going to handle the software, then that's a problem. I don't see any other way to put it nicely. That's just inadequate because that's our job, to draw the lines and we need to get the information and everything around it, but that's a basic.

So we will have to have -- and it's not that different in terms of, you know, if this doesn't -- these computers, which are indeed heavy -- if it doesn't have enough memory, you know, then that's something -- the cost of getting a new computer that's updated and a new computer that has enough memory is not that different. And it's something that I think is a mandatory thing we need to have. I don't think I can say it any more distinctly that, you know, that's something we don't have. I would rather then -- let's wait until -- let's find out what the software is, what we need, and then get the computers all at one time. And then I don't think that needs to be too delayed. I just don't know in terms of the cost how that will actually fit in, but that would be my vote rather than getting people a couple of computers now -- unless we're just temporary things -- to make sure it's the same computer that everyone can work
with.

CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioners Kennedy, Taylor, and Akutagawa.

COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Nothing at this point, Madam Chair. Thank you.

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Yes. So I agree. If we're not going to move to something that's web-based map drawing, I would think a simple point of litigation in the future would be that these commissioners don't even have a computer that can draw a map, and they're responsible for a map. I would think that's something that we'd want to cut off. That's it.

CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Akutagawa, and then Fernandez.

COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Yeah, I'm going to pile on that, and I'll also agree. One thought that I have is in terms of the computers, as much as I would love to have something that would be more (audio interference). Excuse me. I'm with Commissioner Turner, perhaps -- sorry about that. Is there an option to upgrade the memory -- the RAM on the current computer so that it can handle the software? I just want to throw that out. I'm not very computer savvy on these things, but that is something that we've done at my organization where we do need to have more computing power.
COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Sorry. Neal, did you want -- I might just jump in. On a laptop, you know, updating your memory, you know, the cost of taking it in and updating it doesn't -- adding more memory isn't much, but if there are other glitches, then you kind of have to have different memory with it. There's a downtime, there's the -- basically, the cost of putting it in. It's typically more expensive than getting a new machine.

COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: I don't think these computers have the horsepower, even if they had enough memory.

CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Fernandez and then Vazquez. I saw your hand up.

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Just a quick question to Raul. Raul, how long will it take to get new computers? At the point in time when we decide, okay, we have a line drawer, we want to make sure we have computers that are going to be compatible with that. Regarding the procurement process, I think it's somewhat lengthy, but I remember you said something at the last meeting. I don't have a specific time frame.

INTERIM DEPUTY VILLANUEVA: You can probably count on about six weeks to get computers. As the discussion is going on, two issues that I'm kind of having trouble understanding. Two individuals indicated that they were
having trouble with their computers, and when I reached
out, well, specifically to Commissioner Sinay, who's
having the blue screen of death, the response I got back
was, I think I have it now. I'll let you know if I
continue to have any problems.

So I haven't really heard from anyone that they're
having these detrimental problems with the computers
being inoperable. And so I am a little surprised. And I
would like to let you know, if you are having issues with
your computer, please let me know because otherwise, I
don't know.

CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Vazquez, Kennedy, and
then Turner.

COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: Yeah. I mean, I think that
we've got two separate issues. There's the immediate
troubleshooting of specific computers right now, and then
perhaps maybe -- I'm not sure which committee this would
go to, but it sounds like (audio interference) solve
include what our wish list would be for new computers,
besides that. And then either this interim, hopefully,
IT person or a committee or something comes up with a
proposal here, the last (audio interference) we can have
based on what we know, will need to be the minimum to run
the software.

You know, like for me, ideally, I would love to not
have an external camera, so I'd like to have a computer that already has a camera built-in but also that is thin enough and light enough that I can travel with, but also has the horsepower to run the software. So it sounds like we need to, like, come up with a wish list of what our ideal mission/work computer looks like, and then go out and get that for everyone.

CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Kennedy and then Turner.

COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Nothing at this point, Madam Chair. Thank you.

COMMISSIONER TURNER: And I think good for the conversation. I just wanted to say that, Raul, for sure my computer, I don't believe, is broken. And I think it's a matter of setting expectations. Our initial Counsel that we had -- I can't think of her name right at the moment -- but of course, when I initially reached out at the surprise that it was not a Mac -- or just whatever to talk about it -- the thing that I was told at that time is that these were temporary computers and they would be being switched out, which is why the age of the computer, the not attached camera, and the ported mouse and all those things to me and said, oh, okay, it's a transitional computer.

So I've been waiting for it because if you are mobile moving from place to place, it is quite
cumbersome. It fits in no computer bags that are
current. And so it just is a -- we need to be able to
get into them. We should not be pulling it up on our own
computers or what have you, and I'm trying to adhere to
that, and carry it around. So not that it's not
operational; it's just that I was expecting to have it
changed out and that's what I was looking for.

CHAIR AHMAD: Yes. Commissioner Fornaciari and then
Sadhwani.

COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: I'll let Commissioner
Sadhwani go first.

COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Very briefly, to say that I
agree with Commissioner Turner. That was my
understanding as well from the previous counsel.

INTERIM DEPUTY VILLANUEVA: Interesting.

COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Okay. Well, I'll just
offer then to take the action to get more deeply into
understanding the software and the requirements for the
software -- the variety of software out there -- to try
to get a hold of the statewide data -- or will, not
try -- I will get ahold of the statewide database and
understand, you know, what they're planning on doing with
their software and with the requirements are.

But I'll look around at the variety of different
software that may be used for mapping and make sure I
understand the computer requirements for that. And then
I'll get with -- well, Alicia and I will do this -- I'm
volunteering her too -- and then get with Raul to -- get
with Raul to, you know, understand the procurement
process and what -- you know, if there's some limitations
on what we can buy and bring that back. And Commissioner
Andersen's waving frantically.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: I'm just waving frantically
because, look, you know, I'm a structural engineer who --
I do drawings and that's sort of in my wheelhouse in
terms of what you need and what's out there. So I would
be more than willing to help out with this. And yeah,
like, you know, I have a small, nice light laptop that
will fly and will do AutoCAD, which is way more
cumbersome than any of the GIS software.

So I will be more than happy, you know -- if we need
a subcommittee that's just doing that or the Line Drawing
Subcommittee or -- I would love to put in my two cents
because it's something that I think I can save us all a
lot of time.

MS. JOHNSTON: Just one warning, that you need to
have a subcommittee of no more than two people. So if
Commissioner Andersen wants to get involved, maybe there
could be a separate computer research --

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: I'm relinquishing that
piece of it to Commissioner Andersen. How's that?

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: I'll take it. But I think there's other comments.

CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Le Mons.

COMMISSIONER LE MONS: I think that Commissioner Andersen opened the door to the practice that I made earlier about wanting to address something. So we had a discussion earlier, and I was very serious about Troubleshooting Subcommittee, Chair. So I'm actually inviting you to appoint one. And it sounds like earlier, it was Commissioner Andersen, who also expressed an interest, and I'd be willing to support her. And we could not just take this on, but I think other things that need to be troubleshooted, and working with staff, you'd have a dedicated team of people who are giving some attention to that at your pleasure.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: I would totally love that idea because it would be just specific troubleshooting rather than an entire topic. Like, it's not the Finance Committee, this is an element of that, you know, and getting our communications cleared up. It's not part of the communications; it's like the weird little pieces -- the trouble part of that.

And I would totally second Commissioner Le Mons' idea that it could be a separate little subcommittee, and
I'd be more than willing to chair, if that's -- I mean, to be on that subcommittee, if the chair will so approve.

CHAIR AHMAD: Any questions, comments? Yes, Commissioner Fernandez.

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: So it would not be Commissioner Fornaciari, it would be Andersen and Le Mons? I just want to make sure that I clear it for my agenda for next time, in terms of what they'll be presenting. Yeah?

CHAIR AHMAD: Well, I just want to -- before I -- you know, I don't know what the formal process is before I embark on the formal process. I just want to make sure that we're all on the same page with this.

INTERIM DEPUTY VILLANUEVA: Yes.

CHAIR AHMAD: So what is being proposed on the floor is to appoint a new subcommittee, which will be the Troubleshooting Subcommittee. They will take on tasks that come up throughout our meetings and between meetings, I'm assuming. Yes? Can I get a nod? Okay.

Do we want to clarify what kinds of troubleshooting, or is that something that we as a group will just say, hey, this looks like it belongs to the Troubleshooting Subcommittee? Yes? Okay.

Commissioner Sadhwani.

COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: I was going to say that it
would be very specific to the operational (audio
interference). That is the operation of line drawing
when we get to that point, right, or thinking about
community interest or something of that nature, that it
is a very specific to operational issues.

CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Le Mons, I saw you
unmute.

COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Yeah. I'm flexible on what
the topics are. I think little things are going to come
up. Like, what I'm not suggesting is that we're
circumventing the current standing committees at all. So
I want to be very clear. So I'm not suggesting to
replace what Commissioner Fornaciari is doing with
regards to finding out what's required for the software
on the line drawing. No, no, we're not -- I'm not
suggesting we take that part on; he's doing that. What
triggered it for me -- well, I had been thinking about it
earlier, because we had other issues that kind of sat out
there. And if there is some communication that needs to
happen specific to those issues, you know, fill in the
blank with staff, it may be a procedural thing that we
need to understand.

So we'd just be bringing, you know, that support
information to the council each time -- I mean, to the
Commission each time, so that that helps inform whatever
decisions. But it isn't specific to any of the other subcommittees, and I think in this case, Commissioner Andersen just happens to have expertise when it comes to equipment, hardware, and software for laptops or portable computers.

So this just happens to be one of those things. But we can -- if you appoint it, we can more specifically at each meeting, decide what that is and say, okay, we'd like the Troubleshooting Subcommittee to look into X, Y, Z, whatever that is. It could be broad or narrow as the Commission wants.

CHAIR AHMAD: Great. I already have a few items for your to-do list at the end of this meeting. Commissioner Fornaciari.

COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Yeah. I think that the requirements for the line drawing software are going to inform, you know, the specifications for the computers that we decide we want to get. So I'm happy to continue to get those specifications, if you'd like, or I could pass that on to the Troubleshooting Committee to do that too, either way. But I'm not -- if I do it, I'm not sure how to communicate that without breaking the rules.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: I might just say that a bit of coordination through our staff, I think, would easily facilitate that because --
COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Right.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: -- you know, I have -- look, it should probably have this, you know, this, this, this criterion, and I think it would facilitate -- it would help your process going, you know, if I have this, does all the software work? And they'll say yeah, or they might say yeah, but oh no, we don't need that, you know, particular chip capacity or amount of storage.

I think a bit of coordination through the staff could help you in all the different softwares, just -- almost more like do a checklist, so it would help facilitate that.

COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Yeah. I'll do that. I'll look at the software. I'll get a summary together. It's going to be a quad core i7 with --

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Right, and memory --

COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: -- with like tons of memory and a huge hard drive and -- excuse me. Go ahead.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: -- and a good graphics card.

COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Yes.

CHAIR AHMAD: I see Commissioner Vazquez and Le Mons.

COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: Yeah. So my understanding from other boards that an issue can crosscut committees through that, correct? Like, so there's going to be
financial implications based on whatever the
Troubleshooting Committee finds us, like proper
computers.

So it seems like there should be some coordination
through staff, between two subcommittees, potentially, on
this issue or others, right? That the Troubleshooting
folks are going to take the lead and then whomever needs
to sort of weigh in will also be appropriately legally
looped in through staff, correct?

MS. JOHNSTON: That will work, yes.

CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Le Mons.

COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Yeah. I was going to say --
but I realize it won't work. I was going to say I'm also
willing to step back and have Commissioner Fornaciari and
Andersen run with it, but I realize they can't. So I'll
stay. That's all.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Nice try.

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yeah. Nice try.

CHAIR AHMAD: And so I will go ahead and appoint
Commissioner Andersen and Le Mons to the Troubleshooting
Subcommittee. Yes, Raul.

INTERIM DEPUTY VILLANUEVA: I just wanted to add,
before you go too much further, IT is done through
statewide contracts, and so you have a pool of equipment
that's already there, been contracted, priced out, et
cetera. When you start stepping outside of that, you're basically asking somebody to custom develop it for you. And so go ahead and add a few more weeks onto that process, plus delivery time, plus cost.

They don't make it easy. This is the first that I've heard about these computers being temporary. These computers -- I'll just leave it at that. That's the first I've ever heard of that. So the fact that other Commissioners were told that, I'm going to follow up on that because these aren't temporary or that was not the intention.

CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Le Mons.

COMMISSIONER LE MONS: I was going to say, like this, what just happened right here, is a great example of what the Troubleshooting Committee would do. Get to the bottom of all these variables so that we know the frame that we can and cannot operate within, and we know the considerations and impact of all these different variables. And then just bring that -- we're like fact finders and bring the information back, so that, you know, decisions can be made with the broadest swath of correct information. So I just wanted to say that.

CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Kennedy, do you have anything to add at this point?

COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Nothing at this point. Thank
you, Madam Chair.

CHAIR AHMAD: All right. So Commissioners Andersen and Le Mons, you all will be troubleshooting for us.

COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Yes.

CHAIR AHMAD: Thank you. There is one subcommittee that is not listed explicitly but does still fall under Agenda Item Number 9, which is the Outreach and Engagement Subcommittee. We must break at 12:45, so hopefully, we can cover that subcommittee content in the next ten minutes. Commissioners Vazquez and Sinay.

COMMISSIONER SINAY: I feel like I already shared at the beginning, so I don't know if you want to add anything, Commissioner Vazquez. Basically, right now we're just trying to understand the lay of the land in 2010, but also understand best practices -- you know, thinking through what can help us all together think through 2020. And I did want to publicly thank the collaborative letter that we got from public comments because I was getting ready to create something like that. So thank you for doing a much better job than I could have ever done it for everybody.

And you know, I think the only thing I would want to add is I saw on the agenda we may have space to have a speaker. I think it's important that the reason we start our conversations with the philanthropy is because we do
have a two-million-dollar budget. And last time Irvine
Foundation invested three-million dollars, and that was
ten years ago. And so I think it's important to
understand where those outside of the Commission are
complementing the work we're doing, what we need to do,
and thinking through how we go deeper. There's different
levels (audio interference).

Commissioner Kennedy, for some reason, your phone
is -- okay.

So that's just why we haven't gone to community
groups and had any conversations. It's been more
understanding the big picture for figuring out how to
bring the big picture to you all. Commissioner Vazquez.

COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: Yes. Thank you for that
summary. I also wanted to add that part of my lens in
this engagement is to increase access to folks, both sort
of in this fully most-strict quarantine time of this
pandemic, but also wanting to plan for this whole process
to be as accessible as possible across the state, because
even if, in an ideal world, you know, we're in a much
more socially open landscape across the state.

There will still be -- I think there's still
definitely an opportunity for us to build on what is
being created, in terms of virtual engagement, both on
the public side, but also privately through, you know,
online digital organizing, et cetera.

So that's how I have been approaching these conversations with folks in terms of best practices because I do think even in a post-vaccine world, I still think that we as a Commission can do all we can virtually to increase communicating to those folks who are not able to attend in-person meetings, if and when we're able to have them.

CHAIR AHMAD: Do we have questions or comments for the Outreach and Engagement Subcommittee? Yes, Commissioner Le Mons?

COMMISSIONER LE MONS: My question is the community collaborative letter that we received. And I know you guys are working on the big picture portion right now, but for example, something like that, how would you -- and this is -- I guess, so when something like that comes, then would this be the appropriate committee? And I know that that wasn't specific to just outreach. It's, you know, global, but would you take that list and explore it and then come back with recommendations?

Okay. So all right. That's what I was wondering. Maybe give us just a little insight into how you would do that, like what we can expect as a Commission around something. This is just an example.

COMMISSIONER SINAY: So we haven't had a chance to
really think through all the pieces. So we don't have an
official report. But my thought was -- kind of my
thought process has been -- we have that regional map.
Last time they broke up California into regions. I think
we need to look at that regional map together.

So that's kind of the first step is for all of us to
understand that regional map. Yeah, I'm not a big fan of
all of it, but think through the regional map because
that's going to be our guide then to the outcome -- you
know, to moving from there. Understand what's covered by
those community groups in that regional map. I was glad
that they gave their areas. And then thinking through --
there's national players, there's regional players, but
then we also need to think through the local players that
will help on the outreach.

And then on top of that, another layer on all of
this is how do we use technology and what technology is
working well out there, and how do we learn from -- how
do we use the census infrastructure that was created? So
those are some of the -- more than anything, what I've
been trying to do is just uncover those questions that we
can bring to the group with some speakers to answer those
questions. Based on the stuff that I had pulled out the
last time we all met, and things kept coming up. Does
that help?
CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Andersen.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Thank you. It was definitely along the -- sort of the regional lines, and I was wondering -- that letter was wonderful, and I really appreciated it. I was specifically looking at the locations and regional, and I was wondering if the Outreach Committee, you could possibly talk to some of those groups and otherwise -- because what, of course, I was looking at is where they all were and what was missing.

And except for, you know, I think it was Pico and obviously, Common Cause, Legal Women Voters, and I believe it was Conservation Voters. They are like statewide, but Pico was the -- and Pico actually heads up north; everyone else is down south. And the areas that we're really --

COMMISSIONER SINAY: Pico is actually -- Pico's based up north --

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Yes.

COMMISSIONER SINAY: -- but they have local groups throughout. So like San Diego, or organizing causes to local ones. So a lot of those do have locals.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: If you could possibly -- where we need help is particularly up north and particularly given all the fires. Essentially, that
entire section of our state, even the organizations that
might already be there, have been or will have been
displaced.

So if any of those members have connections
elsewhere, you know, that's something I hope we could
certainly -- that people will be bringing to our group,
because I think that's going to be a really hard area for
us to work on. So I just want to make sure that -- I'm
sure you were aware of that, but I just want to make sure
we brought that up.

COMMISSIONER SINAY: Well, and I think speaking with
Amy, who's the consultant both with the California
Philanthropy, who last time -- well, it was with Irvine
last time and with California Philanthropy this time --
one of the things that she said is that there are exactly
what you said, and their funding again, was 3 million
last time, and this time a million with only -- they've
already spent 600 on getting folks through kind of to
apply. So they only have 400 left for outreach and that
our piece is going out this week.

So that's a very different map than the map that we
had before. So when we have the conversation, how do we
make grants and contracts? A funding map. You can't
just ask groups to do work without giving them that
support and the money to have the outreach workers doing
that work. So that's why we need to have that conversation of understanding the money and the regions and all that. And then what can we do to support those groups that are on the ground that need the funding to be able to do this?

CHAIR AHMAD: Yes, Commissioner Akutagawa.

COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: I think what I'm -- I just want to make sure I'm hearing things correctly. I think what I heard Commissioner Andersen perhaps asking about is how are we going to reach those organizations -- and they may not come with titles like, you know, with Civic Engagement and those titles. It could be like a Humboldt County Community Foundation that knows -- the really, Michael players or the organizations that are in those areas that perhaps don't necessarily come to the attention of, like, the Irvine Foundation or even some of the other larger players. And they may be in coalition, but given everything that's going on, it wouldn't be surprising that they're, you know, possibly offline right now.

So I think -- I just want to say, I think we need to really be expansive in who we're looking at and not just limit ourselves to the civic engagement groups, that there may be other organizations, in my experience, you know, where they may not have the kind of right
organization name but end up doing a lot of different things just because they're the only ones up there. So just want to be mindful of that, in terms of particularly the far north, so.

COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: I know we have --

COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Madam Chair?

COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: Oh, go ahead.

COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Thank you, Madam Chair. I've been thinking about this quite a bit as well, trying to come up with some thoughts on who has networks statewide. And I know that last time there was a statewide network of, I think, six redistricting information centers that UC Berkeley started up -- or a statewide database set up. But six of these is not nearly enough. And so thinking about this, two entities that came to mind that the Outreach Committee may want to consider and do some more research on; one is the California Libraries Association. So local libraries are throughout California. And how can we engage with the Library Association to get information out? I think this would also be very important when we start taking public input on maps. If every public library in California had equipment available to members of the public to come in and draw their own maps and submit them from their local public library rather than having to find one of six information
centers statewide. To me, that would be an enormous expansion of our outreach footprint.

And the other entity that came to mind was California community colleges. There are ninety-some California community college districts, and some of those districts have multiple colleges. Many, if not all, have political science faculty who could be trained by us to provide information and assistance and information to the public. And so those two networks, I think, if we can find a way to engage with them, would really ramp up our public outreach footprint down the road. Thank you.

CHAIR AHMAD: Thank you. Commissioner Vazquez.

COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: Yeah. If I could just respond to both of the previous two comments. My goal and my hope is also to do, again, a landscape analysis to try to find where there are potential gaps in terms of our direct connections to community groups, organizers -- anyone who's sort of civically engaged in these more local areas, particularly up north. Because I have also, a laundry list of potential folks, in terms of categories, whom I think I would love to be directly connected with in terms of the Commission.

So you know, schools, school boards, you know, as Commissioner Kennedy said, the community colleges. There are groups who are civically engaged at the hyper-local
level that I'm sure, you know, would love to hear from us but maybe aren't engaged currently.

So absolutely, I don't think we should rely on sort of the big -- rely solely on the big names and the big players. But that also we -- I think it's on us, as a Commission, to proactively reach into those and tap into those local networks, especially those that aren't as well represented at a statewide level.

CHAIR AHMAD: So we are right up at break. I wanted to ask if we need some more time after lunch to continue this conversation, or are we agreeing to continue this particular conversation when we come back to open session on Friday? What are thoughts around that? Commissioner Turner and Sinay.

COMMISSIONER TURNER: I can certainly wait until later.

CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Sinay?

COMMISSIONER SINAY: Yeah. As I said, since we weren't on the agenda, we didn't really prepare anything. But knowing what you all are thinking, I think it's very easy for us to prepare something for the next -- for our next meeting that's coming up, that will answer more of the questions.

And the only reason I'm looking at Irvine was just because they were such a strong funder. But my
background is all community foundations, United Way, Giving Circles. And I also -- I'm really -- this time around, the census blocks that were created are amazing. And those are private public health care -- the health care foundations -- I mean, not health care -- health public clinics are very engaged in census and in voting registration and all that. So there's a lot of entities out there.

So I think we're in a good place to build on what was started. So we'll get that all succinct for you guys next time.

CHAIR AHMAD: Thank you for your report.

Commissioner Turner, I just wanted to ask if your comment was related to subcommittees or if it's on --

COMMISSIONER TURNER: I basically was going to say that I am a Pico California Federation, and so I know that they are throughout all of California, and they're actually a federation made up of a lot of smaller organizations. And so that's all I was going to add back when that was the talk.

CHAIR AHMAD: Okay. Thank you. I asked because I think we need to make a very clear distinction of what's going to happen next in our agenda. And this is also related to our technical support and our videographers as well. So we are now at 12:51. We will break for one
hour for lunch and then go into closed session.

COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Madam Chair?

CHAIR AHMAD: Yes, Commissioner Kennedy.

COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Sorry. I'm wondering if inviting public comments on the discussion that we've just had might be useful/helpful, and then go into closed session after lunch.

CHAIR AHMAD: So are you suggesting public comment when we return from lunch?

COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Yes.

CHAIR AHMAD: Okay. Do we have any objections to that or other recommendations? Are we okay with that? Yes? Okay. So when we return from lunch at 1:51, we will take public comments on anything and everything that has been discussed so far on our agenda, and then we will move into closed session. Just so the commissioners are aware, please keep an eye out on your inbox. We will receive further instructions on how to access closed session. Any questions before we break? Okay. See you all in one hour at 1:53.

(Whereupon, a recess was held)

CHAIR AHMAD: All right. Seeing no callers in queue, Christian, would you be so kind as to remind my colleagues and myself what the process looks like for joining into a closed session?
MR. CHRISTIAN: Certainly, Chair. So by now, you should have hopefully received the instructions for joining by Zoom. And so after we adjourn out of this session, we'll go into a separate Zoom meeting, and you should all have that information now.

CHAIR AHMAD: Great. So in order to troubleshoot some unanticipated -- if there are unanticipated glitches, let's try to be on that Zoom link by 2:04. So if you have any issues, please make sure that Christian, Raul, and staff are also aware of that as we transition into closed session.

And before we jump over, just so that folks are aware, we will be in closed session for the remainder of today and through tomorrow, and we will jump back into open session on Friday. Do we have any questions or comments at this time regarding this process?

All-righty. I will be --

INTERIM DEPUTY VILLANUEVA: Chair Ahmad?

CHAIR AHMAD: Yes.

INTERIM DEPUTY VILLANUEVA: I just wanted to note, I will not be attending the closed session. I have recused myself from the process. So if anyone is having any problems, they could email Christian or Marilyn. I won't --

CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Turner.
COMMISSIONER TURNER: Yeah. You were closing. I just wanted you to see Raul's hand.

CHAIR AHMAD: Oh. Okay. Thank you, Raul, for that update. All right. We will meet again in closed session, and we will see everyone from the public back on Friday.

(Whereupon the CRC Business Meeting recessed at 4:20 p.m.)
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LISA HILL, CDLT-163

July 25, 2022

DATE